MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

13 DECEMBER 1983

Kuwait Bombings

Aftermath — Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, cited by KUNA, placed the total number of victims in the seven bombings in Kuwait on 12 December at 4 dead and 62 injured. Summarizing reports on the explosions, KUNA noted that the first bomb, which was at the U.S. Embassy, was the only suicide attack. A truck loaded with explosives was driven at high speed through the embassy gate and into the embassy building, where it exploded. The driver was apparently not killed and was captured, the agency said, while the building eventually collapsed. The agency added that the car bomb that exploded at the airport damaged the communications center and control tower and killed one and injured several others, while the car bomb at the French Embassy badly damaged the consulate building but only injured three. Similar car bombs exploded outside buildings housing Americans in two suburbs, causing slight damage but no casualties, while another car bomb exploded near the Ash-Shu'aybah oil installation, injuring 10 people, but did not affect operations, the agency stated. KUNA also confirmed earlier reports that another bomb was discovered and defused before it exploded near a government passport office.

A Kuwaiti security official cited by KUNA announced that some suspects had been captured, while all involved "will soon be rounded up," and observed that the explosions all used a common device. Crown Prince Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah condemned the attacks and promised to take the "strictest and toughest measures" against the "criminals and culprits" and to "purge the country of all suspicious elements," KUNA reported.

Reaction — Iraq will "strike militarily against selected Iranian targets" in retaliation for "Iran's heinous crime" against Kuwait, a military spokesman declared in a statement to INA. In addition to Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, the UAE, and the YAR all sent messages of support, KUNA stated, while SPA, WAKH, Baghdad radio, and San'a' radio each reported their government's statement condemning the blasts. The GCC "condemned and denounced" the explosions, SPA announced, and the organization's Secretariat General began "intensive contacts" among the member states aimed at agreeing on "unified Gulf action to confront such incidents," WAKH divulged. Elsewhere in the Middle East, Lebanon's Shafiq al-Wazzan "repudiated" the bombings, according to Beirut radio, while the Egyptian ambassador in Kuwait was reported by MENA as denouncing such "terrorist acts."

PLO Affairs

The PLO has received a guarantee from Syria and Saudi Arabia that forces loyal to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will be able to leave Tripoli unharmed and it hopes to begin the evacuation "within the next 48 hours," 'Arafat's spokesman in Tripoli announced on 12 December in remarks reported by ANSA. Meanwhile, a PLO source in Tunis revealed that PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi will visit Damascus in an attempt to improve Palestinian-Syrian relations, according to KUNA.

As for Israel's opposition to 'Arafat's departure from Tripoli, Defense Minister Moshe Arens said in remarks broadcast by IDF Radio that he hopes Israel "will not have to use force" to prevent the evacuation. It seems incomprehensible that the United Nations and "some Western powers" want to assist the departure of 'Arafat and his "terrorists" from Lebanon so that they can resume terrorist activities elsewhere, Arens contended.

In another development, an official source cited by Beirut radio stated that Tunisia has made no preparations to receive Palestinian fighters from Tripoli. In a statement broadcast by Tunis radio, the Tunisian foreign minister appealed to Syria and the Palestinian dissidents to end their differences with the PLO leadership and break the siege around Tripoli.

Syria

TISHRIN Warning — Syria has the right to defend itself if it is exposed to a new "aggression," and this makes all the U.S. and NATO military forces in Lebanon and the Mediterranean possible targets because they are hostile to Syria, the daily *TISHRIN* declared in a 12 December article reviewed by Damascus radio.

Al-Asad, Internal Situation — President Hafiz al-Asad's health is "good," a presidential spokesman announced in a statement reported by Radio Monte Carlo. Meanwhile, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio claimed that gunfire was heard in Damascus on 12 December and that Syrian authorities imposed stringent security measures in the capital.

Lebanon

The French Foreign Ministry's secretary general visited Beirut to meet with President Amin al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Beirut radio reported. The purpose of the visit was not known, but French Embassy sources "suggested" it was connected with "deliberations" on the Lebanese situation. Meanwhile, a source close to Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt announced that the "displaced persons" in the besieged Phalangist-held town of Dayr al-Qamar will be evacuated on 14 December, according to Damascus radio. The source elaborated that the Italian contingent of the Multinational Force will supervise the withdrawal of Phalangist fighters within 24 hours, while the International Red Cross will supervise the evacuation of civilians, which must be completed within 5 days.

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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'Arafat on Tripoli Exit, Egypt, Future Plans

7 Dec AL-MADINAH Interview

GF101323 Jidda AL-MADINAH in Arabic 7 Dec 83 p 13

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by *AL-MADINAH* correspondent Kamil Hazir in Tripoli — date not given]

[Excerpts] *AL-MADINAH*: Is it possible to say that the recent agreement about Tripoli may lead to a Syrian-Palestinian reconciliation? What are 'Arafat's conditions to reach a compromise with Syria?

'Arafat: There are no conditions for reconciliation between me and any Arab. If you look at the fact that we are one family, you will understand that there are no conditions between me and any Arab. I used to say before the war erupted between me and the Syrians and Libyans in northern Lebanon that I was ready for a meeting and I called on Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad more than once to arrange for this meeting. omitted]

AL-MADINAH: Previously, the question was what would happen after Beirut. Now, the question is what will happen after Tripoli.

'Arafat: Our Arab nation should be asked that. I ask the Arab nation: Has this world become too small for the Palestinian Revolution? Regrettably, the one who is chasing the revolution is not Israel.

AL-MADINAH: 'Arafat asks for Arab guarantees to leave Tripoli. The international guarantees in Beirut before could not provide protection for the camps in Sabra and Shatila.

'Arafat: I demand these guarantees so that at least those who give them can be held responsible for what happens. I demand them so there will not be a new Tal az-Za'tar or a new Sabra and Shatila, whether in Tripoli or in the camps.

AL-MADINAH: What about what is being said about rapproachment between the PLO and Egypt?

'Arafat: No. There is no rapproachment as rumors say. What happened is that during the war in northern Lebanon there was a telephone conversation between me and President Husni Mubarak, who expressed good wishes and readiness to help the PLO and announced Egypt's position in support of the PLO and its leadership, which was legally elected. I thanked President Husni Mubarak and things stopped at that. On this occasion, I must appreciate the Egyptian medical delegation which represents all Egypt. The arrival of this delegation was an expression of the Egyptian people's stand alongside the revolution, the PLO, and the bold city of Tripoli and its heroic inhabitants.

AL-MADINAH: What is the future of relations with Jordan and the dialogue between 'Arafat and King Husayn?

'Arafat: After my exit from Tripoli I said that I will continue my other duties and that I will continue political work. I will continue to follow up the implementation of the political program on basis of which I was elected as chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. As we are trying to reach a compromise with our brothers in Syria according to the political program which was approved recently in Tripoli, we are endeavoring to establish a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation. Before I came to Tripoli, an official Jordanian delegation visited me. I also sent Hani al-Hasan to Amman. Many of my brothers in the PLO visited Jordan and held talks there.

AL-MADINAH: How does 'Arafat assess the Israeli and U.S. reactions?

'Arafat: What is happening in Tripoli is a continuation of the Israeli conspiracy which took place in Beirut.

AL-MADINAH: What does 'Arafat say to Israel?

'Arafat: I want to say nothing except that the Palestinian revolution is not a military base. The revolution is the will of 5 million Palestinians backed by 150 million Arabs.

12 Dec ATH-THAWRAH Interview

JN121917 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1628 GMT 12 Dec 83

["Text" of interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar, by Iraqi paper *ATH-THAWRAH* in Tripoli, published on 12 December]

[Text] Question: Is it your fate to pass through successive sieges? You are currently besieged in Tripoli. How do you view the future?

Answer: We are living in a state of lifting sieges too. In spite of this, the siege that has been imposed on us in Tripoli is more painful than the siege of Beirut because the Beirut siege was imposed by our Arab nation's enemy while now it is a siege that is imposed by brothers. While Israel is wreaking havoc in the Arab region, the Palestinian revolution is besieged. Our future generations will never believe that this had taken place.

But this has taken place in an era of Arab deterioration. It took place while we, and the heroic Tripoli citizens in this Arab and Islamic city, are being showered by hundreds of thousands of shells. During the past 72 hours, the average was 69 shells per minute on the Al-Mina', Al-Qubbah, and other quarters. The shelling also damaged the water supply and electricity networks, not to mention the huge destruction sustained by the various plants, medical storage centers, and fire brigade centers. The same applies to Al-Baddawi refugee camp, most of which was destroyed and where hundreds of women, children, and old people were killed. I wonder: Who would have imagined that such a thing could happen? But this has taken place. I can only ask our Arab nation: What now? How can this nation accept what is happening now? How? How?

Question: A cease-fire agreement was recently reached, but it seems that it is not bolding. How do you explain the violation of this agreement? Is this a natural thing that precedes the imple-

mentation of the comprehensive agreement, or is it a prelude to an aggression against Tripoli?

Answer: It is the prelude to the invasion of Tripoli. I regret to say that the agreement has not been respected. Since the first days of the cease-fire agreement, not a single day has passed without Tripoli receiving its share of shells, rockets, and sniper fire. These shells and rockets even reach the Abu Samra and Al-Qubbah quarters and other residential quarters where no Palestinian forces are located. What makes us convinced that they are determined to carry out a comprehensive aggression is the fact that there are new military troop concentrations. One armored brigade and one armored battalion have been brought in to reinforce the previous troop concentrations. Thus, the number of the forces besieging us is approximately two divisions. This is, of course, in addition to the Al-Qadisiyah Brigade, which belongs to the Palestine Liberation Army and which is controlled by Syria. They brought this brigade from Mount Hermon, where it was facing the Israelis, to Tripoli to confront the PLO.

Question: But Syrian officials have been incessantly reaffirming that they insist on implementing the practical steps of the agreement which they concluded with Saudi Arabia.

Answer: Thank God, you have seen for yourself what is taking place and which refutes what they are saying. You are now hearing the sound of the artillery and rocket shelling and the sound of fire from light and heavy weapons. Yesterday, a formation of tanks approached. We confronted it and captured several of these tanks. We are now in possession of seven of these tanks.

Question: The Higher Coordination Committee continues its contacts with you to implement the plan that has been agreed, that is, the withdrawal from Tripoli. What agreement has been reached on this level?

Answer: We are in agreement with the committee that the fighters who came to Tripoli from abroad must return to where they came. As for the forces that previously were in Tripoli, they will remain. On my part, I welcomed this matter and approved the Saudi-Syrian statement. But though I have given my approval, the reinforcement of troops continues. Entrusting the Higher Coordination Committee, which has no power whatsoever, with the task of supervising an end to the fighting means that it can do nothing so long as the Syrian decision is the one which it takes into consideration.

Question: When the Saudi-Syrian agreement was announced, it did not mention the Palestinian side in this agreement. What explanation do you have for this?

Answer: You must realize that this agreement was concluded with the approval of the three parties: the Syrian, Saudi, and Palestinian sides. It was concluded among Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Khaddam, and Brothers Abu as-Sa'id [Khalid al-Hasan] and Rafiq an-Natshah. The Syrians' condition for agreeing to a cease-fire had been that no Palestinian side must be mentioned in the agreement, in spite of the fact that the agreement had been discussed and signed in the [Syrian] Foreign Ministry and in the suite of the Saudi envoy at the Sheraton Hotel.

Question: However, contacts between you and the Higher Coordination Committee which stemmed from the agreement continued?

Answer: Of course they continued. I received successive messages from Rashid Karami and I answered them after I met with the delegation of the Higher Coordination Committee. I did this to prevent them from finding any pretext to invade the city and carry out a massacre against its inhabitants.

Question: What are the issues proposed by Karami?

Answer: He asked for my ideas on implementing the solution and I outlined my ideas for him. I am now waiting for the final reply.

Question: What are your ideas?

Answer: I talked about this concept earlier, which is based on securing the safety of the withdrawing forces, stationing an Arab force between the warring forces, and defining the destination of the withdrawing forces — I mean the states to which these forces will go.

Question: Then you have agreed on the actual withdrawal?

Answer: Absolutely. We will withdraw to save the city from a new tragedy like those of Tal az-Za'tar or Sabra and Shatila. I have said this from the beginning.

Question: Can you brief us on the scenario and details of the operation?

Answer: No. This is very difficult because I do not have the scenario. It is in the hands of the other parties.

Question: Where will your forces go?

Answer: The forces that came from San'a' will return to San'a'; those from Aden will return to Aden; those from Algiers will return to Algiers; and so on.

Question: You have suggested the formation of an Arab force to disengage the warring forces. To what states does this force belong?

Answer: I suggested the formation of Arab observers who would belong to states agreed on by Lebanon.

Question: You mean that this affair is subject to the Lebanese Government's approval?

Answer: Of course. Of course.

Question: It is said that French-Israeli contacts under way to secure the sea route, something that will facilitate the withdrawal operation.

Answer: No. That is not true.

Question: The opponents are determined to keep the forces that will leave Tripoli within Lebanese territory in order to place them under their leadership. What is your comment on this?

Answer: I challenge them to insist on this, but their overlords want us to leave. As for those stationed in Al-Biqa', they will be forced to withdraw to controlled camps.

Question: There is much talk now about the post-Tripoli stage. Where will Abu 'Ammar go?

Answer: To the headquarters in Tunis.

Question: In what direction will he move politically?

Answer: I will continue to implement the political and militant programs endorsed by the PNC's recent session in Algiers. I will also continue my contacts and struggle on all levels, for we are at the approaches of a new PNC session. We will continue our dialogue with Jordan. We also want to continue our struggle inside the occupied territory and support our kinfolk there, politically and economically. Our kinfolk have been the heroes who supported us in times of need.

Question: What steps will you adopt on organizational levels and within the PLO's framework?

Answer: Naturally, we will adopt the necessary stands. Because we are a democratic movement, we will resort to the opinion of the majority in order to decide on all the affairs related to the revolution's fate.

Question: Will certain factions be excluded from the PLO's leadership?

Answer: We will abide by the majority's decisions. This is democracy, isn't it?

Question: Do you expect the PNC to convene in this stage?

Answer: Why not? Of course, it will convene. I tried to convene it before my arrival in Tripoli, but my brothers in the PLO Central Council asked to postpone this meeting.

Question: Some are trying to search for someone to replace Abu 'Ammar as a leader of the PLO.

Answer: Let it be so if the PNC decides that. I would be the first to welcome such a decision. I am a democratic man and democracy is basic for me. I have struggled to confirm and entrench this democracy in the Palestinian arena because I consider it the strongest source of power for the Palestinian revolution. Democracy has been one factor that so far has defended and preserved the PLO from this U.S. plot. Democracy is one reason behind the Syrian attack on the revolution. Our stands were not the result of a military coup. When I struggle for the sake of democracy, I will be the one to adhere to its rules. I asked my brothers in the recent PNC to exempt me from responsibility and told them that I will not nominate myself again. Yet, my brothers in Fatah and in the other Palestinian factions insisted that I stay and nominate myself.

Question: What about the formation of a unified Palestinian liberation army?

Answer: Yes, there is a PNC resolution to form a unified army that will be called the Palestine National Liberation Army [jaysh at-tahrir al-watani al-filastini]. We are now working to implement this resolution in occordination with all the militants and fighters in the Palestinian arena.

Question: Where will this army be stationed?

Answer: On all Arab land. This army is now present in Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Sudan, and Yemen.

Question: But if this army is not in contact with occupied Palestine and with the surrounding countries in particular, it will not enjoy any effectiveness.

Answer: Do you believe the Arabs are sharpening their teeth and preparing to fight Israel? When this occurs we will bring this army. But despite this, we fight according to our own way through launching and continuing a war of attrition against Israel. We will never stop a moment despite all our difficult circumstances, both on lines of contact with the enemy and in the occupied land.

Question: You are continuously talking, especially during the siege imposed on you in Tripoli, about a confederal government with Jordan.

Answer: It is a Palestinian option. It comes in implementation of a decision previously adopted by the PNC. Therefore, the failure of the dialogue with Jordan was due to the Jordanians' special viewpoint. We had our own viewpoint, which is based on the PNC decisions and the Fes summit resolutions.

Question: Is there a realistic possibility, based on precise calculations, of setting up a confederation with Jordan?

Answer: Without a doubt. This is considered one of the important issues by the Palestinian revolution. Just as Syria's land is one of the important positions from a geo-political viewpoint, Jordan is also an important position according to the same viewpoint, in addition to the size of a popular Palestinian presence there.

Question: There are rumors about tension in relations with the Soviet Union. To what extent is that true?

Answer: I believe that those who say that are a troupe of clowns. Our relations with the Soviet Union are normal, and the Soviet Union did not miss a chance to express its support for the Palestinian people and the PLO leadership. The latest of those chances was the day of solidarity with the Palestinian people on which I received messages from all the leaders in the socialist countries.

Question: What is your position on the Lebanese-Israeli agreement in light of its effect on the Palestine question?

Answer: We said that this agreement is rejected, and the 17 May agreement was the result of that agreement and this destructive war agaisnt the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

Question: Before you leave Lebanon, there is a right that the Palestnian people are seeking — their destiny and the continuation of their life in Lebanese territory. What did you do in this respect.

Answer: This question should be posed to the Syrians. In historical terms, I hold them responsible for that.

Algiers TV Interview

LD121417 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Algiers, 12 Dec (APS) — PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said that currently events in Tripoli, northern Lebanon, constitute the completion of the American-Israeli conspiracy that was hatched against Beirut in 1982. In an interview with Algerian television broadcast yesterday evening, Mr 'Arafat said that the city of Tripoli has been subjected to an inferno which caused the destruction of all its social and economic installations and institutions, stressing that 154 heavy guns and approximately 90 rocket launchers each with an average of 30 to 40 rockets have fired on the city and the two Palestinian camps.

Replying to a question on the terms for the PLO's leaving Tripoli, Mr 'Arafat stressed that in this city the PLO is nothing but a sword in the hands of its people and that the PLO is doing its utmost to save the city from massacre similar to those of Tal az-Za'tar, Sabra, and Shatila.

Mr 'Arafat added that organization has no terms since this decision was made from an Arab-Islamic stance. However, he recalled that it is the PLO's right to ask the Arab nation why it is being chased from place to place.

Replying to a question on the future of the organization's political action, Mr 'Arafat said that the PLO is not a military base that can be crushed merely through occupation, stressing that the PLO is the will of 5 million Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories. It is the conscience of 150 million Arabs from the ocean to the Gulf, and it is the voice of the free and honorable men of the entire world.

Mr 'Arafat added that before the Israeli aggression against Lebanon in 1982 the PLO expected that it would enter a dark tunnel, and that once it emerged it woudl be able to see the walls and minarets of Jerusalem.

The PLO Executive Committee chairman pointed out that he is extremely optimistic despite the crisis which the organization is experiencing and that this crisis despite, the suffering and tribulations, is important because it has united the Palestinian people and strengthened their unity whether inside or outside the occupied territories. In conclusion Mr 'Arafat expressed his thanks to President Chadli Bendjedid and the Algerian Government and people for all the support and assistance they have offered to the Palestinian people and revolution.

Syrian-Saudi Guarantee on Withdrawal Claimed

AU121524 Rome ANSA in English 1520 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Excerpt] (ANSA) Beirut, December 12 — The Palestinian Liberation Organization will be putting the final details today on plans for departure from northern Lebanon with representatives of the special inter-Lebanese force which will be guarding the exodus, PLO spokesman Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman told "ANSA" today. "We hope to be able to leave the city (of Tripoli) within the next 48 hours," 'Abd ar-Rahman said.

PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and his men, besieged in Tripoli by rebel Palestinian forces and hammed in by a squadron of Israeli warships lining the coast, has received a guarantee from Syria and Saudi Arabia that the guerrillas will be able to get out unharmed, the spokesman disclosed. "The Israeli ships are still anchored in Lebanese territorial waters and they seem to be determined not to let us out," he added.

In any case, the 'Arafat aide said, "France is the only country that has up to now assured us an 'escort', even if the company will be more 'symbolic' than real". "The PLO and the Arab League are still consulting with Italy about the prospect of that country too offering a military escort" for the voyage from Tripoli to San'a', in North Yemen, and Tunis, he disclosed.

Spokesman Denies PLO Link With Kuwait Blasts

NC131058 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 13 Dec 8

[Text] Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman, the spokesman for the 'Arafat forces, has denied any PLO connection with the Kuwaiti events. He added that all reports in this respect are baseless because the PLO's objective is to strike at Israel.

Baghdad PLO Urges Syria To Lift Tripoli Siege

JN100827 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1601 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] O brothers, we have always disregarded the wounds in our backs. Throughout the stages of the escalated Zionist aggression against our people and revolution, and against our Arab nation, we have been calling for unifying the Arab ranks and bypassing all differences in order to seriously confront and defeat aggression.

Today, while the Zionist enemy is mobilizing and preparing its forces to wage a large-scale aggression against our revolution, which is currently besieged in Tripoli, northern Lebanon, we consider the Syrian siege of our forces to be a disagreement that can be overcome despite the deep wound it has caused us and the battles that have occurred during the past 3 months. We can only extend our hands to Syria in order to overcome all differences — not out of weakness or because we are besieged from all sides, but because we do not want to further blacken our Syrian Army's historical record.

Furthermore, we can only say to the leaders of the Syrian regime that their claims concerning their determination to confront the United States and the Zionist enemy need a lot of proof. This is an opportune time for them to immediately provide this proof before they fall into the Zionist enemy's trench — this enemy who today officially declared its siege of Tripoli from the sea. Syrian leaders must immediately lift their siege and join us in fighting the Zionist enemy, who is currently preparing to wage an aggression against us while we are pinning our hope on Arab support to ensure that the aggression is halted.

There is no time for tricks or void claims, because all such claims will be burned to the ground. The dissidents created by the Syrian leaders were burned, and the collaboration of the Arab stand supporting these claims was also burned. This is because Israel has so obviously and blatantly joined the conspiracy. If the Syrian siege continues from the east, will Israel become a Palestinian side so that the talk by some Arab radios about the internecine fighting will continue?

What is currently taking place in Tripoli needs no further explanation and offers no more proposals for the Syrian leaders. Either they side with the enemy or with the revolution and its masses — or rather, with their people and the masses of their nation. We will heal the wounds in our backs with our determination, persistence, and deep faith in the inevitability of the continuation of our revolution — so that the Zionist enemy can be confronted and fought and the objectives of our nation and people can be realized. We fought in Tripoli to preserve our right to fight against the Zionist enemy. This enemy has come to our positions which you, the Syrian regime's leaders, are besieging. Your option is now plain and clear.

Al-'Asifah Spokesman Condemns 'Arafat's 'Stalling'

JN130750 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] The Al-'Asifah forces general command has sharply condemned Yasir 'Arafat's media uproar about his departure from Tripoli. In a statement yesterday, a responsible source in the Al-'Asifah forces said:

Amid the battles waged by the Arab progressive and nationalist forces in the Arab homeland, 'Arafat is demanding French, Italian, and international protection. He has also asking for the UN flag to be flown over the departing ships. Finally, 'Arafat made a request for air cover for him and his followers. The source said that through his stalling and excuses, 'Arafat is trying to weaken the Arab alliance which is confronting the capitulatory attempts and the march of the Camp David partners such as Husni Mubarak, King Husayn, and others.

The source held 'Arafat responsible for weakening the Arab ranks and for any clashes in Tripoli which may lead to more bloodshed. It said that through his stalling 'Arafat attempts to start fresh fighting in Tripoli — fighting which was stopped when the Palestinian nationalist forces and the Fatah uprising announced a unilateral cease-fire.

Concluding, the Palestinian source said: The Arab and Palestinian masses will not forgive 'Arafat the crime of taking the Palestinian fighters out of the circle of struggle and away from the lines of contact with the Zionist enemy.

Khalaf Raps Soviet Stand in Tunis Speech

LD102312 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Ahmad 'Abd al-Kharim Tunis Dispatch]

[Text] The seventh congress of the General Federation of Palestinian Workers is being held under the slogan: The Unity of the Palestinian working class is a formidable barrier to protect the PLO and safeguard its national and independent decision-making. In the conference hall the following slogans were displayed: No to trusteeship, no to subservience, and no to containment; The Zionist enemy in Golan, in southern Lebanon and not in Al-Baddawi and Nahr al-Barid and northern Lebanon; Disgrace and shame on the killers of our kinfolk in Al-Baddawi and Nahr al-Barid; Long live national unity within the framework of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian people; No to Syrian and Libyan interference against the Palestinian revolution; Glory to the martyrs of Al-Yarmuk, Nahr al-Barid, and Al-Baddawi.

Brother Salah Khalaf — Abu Iyad — delivered a speech on behalf of the Palestinian revolution. He revealed in his speech that he had a telephone conversation with Brother Abu 'Ammar in Tripoli. He said that the conspiracy does not single out Yasir 'Arafat but it is aimed at the Palestinian aspiration, the Palestinian existence, and Palestinian rifle, and it wants us all to be in exile.

Brother Abu Iyad criticized the speech of the Soviet delegation for describing the fighting as fratricide. He said that it is a fight between criminals and renegades who abandoned all the slogans and the will of their people and between strugglers who cherish in their eyes and hearts this Palestinian dream so that this revolution can continue to bear arms and fight criminals who wanted to be sheep under the shadow of the regimes.

Brother Abu Iyad revealed that Brother Abu 'Ammar appealed to Syria and Libya to lift the Tripoli siege so that together we could fight against Israel. He asked: Where are they those who used to condemn 'Arafat because his forces are exiled? Is it not because of this that they arose? Why do they want them to quit Tripoli again after their commander in chief had gone there? Brother Abu Iyad added: Where are the true Arab voices? Where are the voices of our friends in the world? Where is conscience? Tripoli might be bombarded again tonight or tomorrow.

He went on: Yasir 'Arafat was forced to quit Beirut and he is about to be compelled to leave the last spot nearest to the borders of the homeland. I say to the entire world that we are not a gang in Tripoli. We are fighters in the Palestinian revolution.

He said: On behalf of us all, you should salute those who set off explosions in Jerusalem, Nablus, and Haifa to confirm that the armed struggle is not confined to areas near the occupied homeland but relies on the strugglers no matter how far away we are from the homeland.

Brother Abu Iyad affirmed that the conspiracies are aimed at PLO unity so that the Palestinian representation can be dropped. I say to all the defeatists: It is not the Tripoli, Al-Biqa', or Syrian arenas which can affirm who the sole legitimate representative of our people is. A humble fighter in the occupied homeland armed with his stone is the legitimate representative of our people. No one has the power to remove 'Arafat. This cannot be done even with three states and all their oil.

Brother Abu Iyad concluded his speech by saying: Yasir 'Arafat is a symbol to us. This symbol remains and no one has the authority to remove this symbol. He added: Is it possible that the conscience of the Arab people will wake up against this ugly picture of an Israeli siege and a Syrian-Libyan siege? He said: Cannot Syria at least stop those who are beseieging Tripoli? We do not ask for mercy. We are fighters. I said to 'Arafat: If you want to leave and let 4,000 Palestinians be martyred, then this world might wake up. Our friends are called upon to adopt a stand. We might be able to accept an Arab siege, but there must not be an Arab-Israeli siege.

He asked the congress to make an urgent appeal to the world to stand up to this tragedy.

Security Guarantees Sought

GF121810 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1755 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Tunis, 12 Dec (WAKH) — Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, Fatah's second in command, has reiterated that the departure of Yasir 'Arafat's loyalist forces from Tripoli cannot take place without international security guarantees. In a statement after his meeting with foreign delegations participating in the conference of the General Confederation of Palestinian Workers, currently being held in Tunis, Abu Iyad denounced Arab parties' intervention in the Palestinian revolution's affairs. These parties tried, and are still trying, to contain the Palestinian revolution, he said. He affirmed that the Palestinian will, represented in its decisionmaking, has foiled all these plots.

Tunisian Source 'Not Expecting' Palestinians

NC122246 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2231 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] An official Tunisian source declared yesterday that Tunis is not expecting to receive the Palestinian fighters who may leave Tripoli. The same source said: Palestinian officials have not yet contacted, directly or indirectly, Tunisian authorities on this subject. Therefore, no preparations or measures have been taken yet in Tunis to receive the Palestinians evacuated from Tripoli.

Preparations for 'Arafat Visit to Paris

LD131232 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1144 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Rabat, 13 Dec (KUNA) — It was learned here today that final arrangements have been made for a visit to Paris by Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat. An Arab diplomatic source informed KUNA that the recent contacts in Paris, represented by a visit by a number of Palestinian officials, which included Hani al-Hasan, adviser to 'Arafat; Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the Political Department of the organization; and Khalid al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee, "aimed at drafting a program for 'Arafat'svisit to France." The same source also expected "the timing of leader 'Arafat's visit to Paris to coincide with a French European-backed initiative in the Middle East."

The same source said that "an envoy of French President Francois Mitterrand recently held a meeting with a prominent Palestinian personality in one of the Arab capitals." During the meeting the Palestinian official conveyed the PLO's viewpoint regarding the French role in the Middle East.

PLO's Qaddumi Planning To Visit Syria

LD121813 Kuwait KUNA in English 1754 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Tunis, Dec 12 (KUNA) — The Palestine Liberation Organization's chief diplomat Faruq Qaddumi will visit Damascus within few days to discuss patching up the deteriorating relations between the PLO and Syria, a well-informed Palestinian source said Monday. The Syrian-Palestinian rift deepened when PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat accused Damascus of backing Palestinian rebels seeking his ouster. The source, who declined to be named, ruled out that Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, would ask the Syrians to facilitate the evacuation of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat from Tripoli by land through the Syrian territories. Qaddumi would not make such a request due to his prior knowledge that the Syrian officials would not comply, the source told KUNA.

'Arafat and some 4,000 fighters loyal to him are preparing to leave the Tripoli area in north Lebanon where they have been besieged by Syrian-Backed Palestinian rebels since early in November.

Al-Hasan Urges U.S. Reconsider Reagan Plan

NC130958 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Paris, 13 Dec (MENA) — Khalid al-Hasan, PNC member and adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, described Egypt's stand on the Palestinian issue as excellent. At a news conference held at the French Institute for International Relations yesterday, Al-Hasan said Egypt has given the Palestinian issue much assistance, particularly since 1982. He pointed out that Egypt has resumed its normal foreign policy to occypy its status as the leader of the Arab world.

Al-Hasan called on the United States to reconsider President Reagan's initiative, which says no to self-determination, to a state, and to the PLO. He said: Despite this we leave the door open for the Americans to reconsider their stand. He denied that there is any disagreement between 'Arafat and King Husayn of Jordan.

DFLP's Hawatimah on Talks with Bourguiba

LD091659 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Excerpts] President Habib Bourguiba today received DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah. After the meeting, Nayif Hawatimah stated that the talks were held within the framework of the official visit he is making to Tunisia and included discussion on developments in the Middle East, especially the Palestinian issue, and the dangers to which the revolution and the PLO are exposed by the enemy attempting to split the organization and end the right of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland and to achieve self-determination and an independent state.

Hawatimah pointed out out that the president affirmed that Tunisia will continue its efforts to support the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

With regard to the threats to which the Syrian forces in the Lebanese territory are exposed, he said that the PLO will stand firmly by the Syrian forces against any new Israeli military aggression. The PLO believes in the unity of the struggling forces at the front in the struggle against the joint enemy occupying the south of Lebanon, the Golan, and the Palestinian territories.

YAR President Receives 'Arafat Message

GF122004 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, sent a verbal message to Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the YAR, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress. The message was conveyed by Hikmat Zayd, PLO representative in San'a'. The Palestine radio correspondent has learned that the message deals with the latest developments on the Palestinian arena.

Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih affirmed the YAR's principled and solid stand in support for the PLO as the sole legitimate representative for the Palestinian people and its great hope for the unity and coherence of the organization to face all circumstances and eventualities. Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih called all the factions of the Palestinian revolution to preserve the unity of the PLO, which is the great achievement for Palestinian struggle, and to unite around it in order to achieve Palestinian national unity, particularly in the current situation which requires increasing struggle to face the most ferocious Zionist plot against the Palestinian people and their revolution.

UAE Paper Reports Upcoming Palestinian Meeting

GF121046 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0815 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Ash-Shariqah, 12 Dec (WAKH) — The UAE newspaper *AL-KHALIJ* reported today that the secretaries general of the Palestinian resistance, PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum, and a number of Palestinian personalities will hold an expanded meeting during the next few days. Quoting reliable Palestinian sources in Damascus, the paper said the venue of the meeting will either be Damascus or Aden. The sources added that Damascus is more likely since there have been reports that PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi will arrive there very shortly to represent the Fatah movement at the upcoming meeting.

The sources added that the goal of this meeting is to study the current Palestinian situation, Palestinian-Arab relations, and to avoid the convening of the PNC — which Yasir 'Arafat will call for in early 1984 — since convening the PNC in an emergency session will lead to genuine division within PLO, according to these sources. All the Palestinians factions agreed to hold the upcoming meeting.

Riyadh Statement Expected on Summit Date

GF091200 Muscat 'Uman in Arabic 9 Dec 83 p 1

[Excerpt] An official Arab source has announced that a statement will soon be released in Riyadh on whether the Arab summit will be held at the end of this year or postponed to a later date next year. In a statement to the newspaper *'UMAN*, the source said Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi will meet with King Fahd in the Saudi capital in the next few days to review the outcome of his meetings with Arab leaders during his tour of Arab capitals concerning the summit.

Gunfire Heard in Damascus 12 December

JN121645 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1620 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Damascus — Our radio corespondent has learned that stringent security measures have been adopted in the Syrian capital and that there is something that is similar to a curfew in the main streets and quarters in Damascus. Our correspondent says: I learned a short while ago that the sound of gunfire is being heard in several parts of the Syrian capital.

Meanwhile, it has been confirmed that the offices of the traitor dissidents in Al-Biqa' have been closed and that the Syrian authorities have restricted their freedom of movement and prevented them from appearing in Al-Biqa' except for those who obtain a permit from Ahmad Jibril, the Syrian intelligence officer.

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC Following Up Kuwait Explosions

GF121410 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 12 Nov (WAKH) — Ibrahim as-Subhi, GCC assistant secretary general for political affairs, has announced that intensive contacts are being held by the GCC Secretariat General and the GCC countries on the explosions which took place in Kuwait this morning. In a statement to the QNA correspondent in Riyadh, As-Subhi said the Secretariat General is in constant contact with Kuwait to keep abreast of the latest developments.

He expressed the conviction that these contacts will result in unified Gulf action to confront such incidents. He noted that the Secretariat General announced a state of emergency this morning and that security organs continue to follow up developments in the incidents.

Statement Condemns Explosions

LD130959 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0730 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Riyadh, 13 Dec (SPA) — The GCC has strongly denounced the criminal terroristic acts which took place in fraternal Kuwait. In a statement today, the GCC affirmed its member countries' firm and total stand on the side of sister Kuwait and their absolute support for it in facing up to such crminal acts and all acts that detract from its independence and sovereignty. The following is the text of the GCC statement:

With most profound sorrow, the GCC has followed reports received about the criminal explosions that have occurred in sister Kuwait. These incidents have come as an extremely strong shock to the GCC member countries, which most vehemently denounce all forms of violence and reject all kinds of sabotage.

While strongly denouncing these criminal terroristic acts which took lives of innocent people, the GCC member countries wish to affirm their total and firm stand by sister Kuwait and their absolute support for it in the face of such criminal acts and all acts that harm its sovereignty and independence. These acts, which aim at spreading anarchy and chaos, will only further consolidate GCC cohesion in the face of all acts of violence and terrorism. They will act as a continuous and strong incentive for them to back each other and intensify their efforts to cooperate and coordinate among themselves in order to safeguard their stability, security, and safety while working hard and continuing with their efforts to bolster the Arab and Islamic causes.

The GCC member countries pray to God Almighty to protect the Arab and Islamic nation's security and continue to endow it with stability and save it from all harm.

Gulf Papers Score Kuwait Bomb Explosions

GF130902 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0820 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Manama, 13 Dec (WAKH) — The Bahraini newspaper *AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ* noted that the criminal aggression which took place in Kuwait yesterday is merely part of a big plan designed to jeopardize the stability and the security of the Gulf region and the Arab homeland. The paper added: This aggression is an inseparable part of the other conspiracies which are the continuation of the Gulf war and the strikes at the just national issues and the confrontation of the Zionist occupation of the Arab territories.

The paper concluded by saying that what took place is merely the natural outcome of the continuation of the war in the Gulf region and the Middle East. It said: We are confident that the GCC countries are capable of preserving security, continuing their sincere efforts to end this crazy war between two Muslim neighbors, and attaining just peace in the Middle East.

The Qatari newspaper *AL-'ARAB* strongly denounced the explosions which took place in Kuwait yesterday stressing strick rejection of such criminal acts which endanger the security and stability of the region. The paper also called for confronting the sabotage acts, which are not acceptable in any way since they harm the economic, political, and cultural achievements of a state whose security and achievements are regarded as integral parts of the security and the achievements of the area as a whole. *Al-'ARAB* emphasized that Kuwait is capable of confronting this challenge through the support of all its sisterly countries in order to preserve stability and security in the region.

Gulf Banking Conference Opens in Bahrain

GF111930 Doha QNA in Arabic 1835 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Manama, 11 Dec (QNA) — The second annual conference of on banking transactions in the Gulf region began here today attended by a number of governers of central banks in the GCC countries and over 300 businessmen and banking officials from the GCC states and countries in the Middle East, Europe, and United States. The 2-day conference was opened by Bahraini Finance and National Economy Minister Ibrahim 'Abd al-Karim.

In his speech which was broadcast by Bahrain radio, Ibrahim 'Abd al-Karim spoke about the unified economic agreement among the GCC states. He said: The agreement represents an economic basic which consolidates the principles of free economy and capital movement and coordinates programs of development and political, financial, economic, and monetary policies of the GCC sttates.

Saudi Finance and National Economy Minister Shaykh Muhammad Aba al-Khayl also spoke at the conference. He touched on the future of banks in the GCC states. He said: International debt, economic retraction, unemployment, and reduction in volume of international trade do not allow us to predict what is going to happen in the future.

Shaykh Muhammad Aba al-Khayl said that he believes that the major petroleum projects in the GCC countries will prove that they are a focus in mobilizing private capital. He said that the Gulf Investment Company, whose capital is over $2 billion, will represent another incentive in the joint efforts of government and

private capital to create a national production industry and functions for the future.

The Saudi finance and national economy minister called on the GCC countries to coordinate their financial, monetary, and banking policies and to increase cooperation with the central banks and the monetary authorities in order to achieve economic integration.

BAHRAIN

12 Dec Explosions in Kuwait Condemned

GF121932 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1809 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Manama, 12 Dec (WAKH) — The State of Bahrain strongly condemned today the sabotage acts which were aimed at the security and stability of fraternal Kuwait. In a statement following his telephone conversation with Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, heir apparent and Kuwaiti prime minister, earlier today regarding the sabotage incidents at the U.S. and French Embassies and some government installations in Kuwait, Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah affirmed the support of Bahrain's amir, government, and people to the fraternal Kuwait in strengthening its security and stability.

Information Minister on U.S.-Israeli Alliance

GF111400 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 10 Dec 83 pp 1, 17

[Fathi Sharif dispatch from Manama]

[Excerpt] Bahraini Information Minister Tariq al-Mu'ayyad has said U.S. President Reagan's step to conclude a strategic alliance with Israel is not a great surprise for us as we are living at a time in which the Arab nation is full of differences and conflicts everywhere. The alliance is a translation of old alliances between the United States and Israel and contains nothing new. However, we believe that its announcement came at an improper time, when we had hoped that the United States would make a more serious contribution to resolving the region's crisis and stabilizing the situation in it, he said.

In a statement to *AS-SIYASAH*, Al-Mu'ayyad said: A realistic view of developments in the region makes us always believe that any solution to the crisis of the region's peoples should spring from the independent Arab consciousness and decision without expecting charity or favor in a solution from outside the region, whatever its price might be, particularly after it has been established that the superpowers' interests in the region clash with pan-Arab interests.

On U.S. justifications for the raids on the Syrian positions, the Bahraini information minister said: It is not reasonable to accept such justifications. These U.S. raids will have serious repercussions in exacerbating the situation. We hope such aggressions and operations will not be repeated at a time when the Middle East developments are jeopardizing world peace.

Al-Mu'ayyad called on the PLO to quickly convene the PNC in Tunis or any other Arab country to reach Palestinian unanimity on tackling the differences among the revolution's factions and to put an end to the crisis facing the Palestinian issue on the Arab and international levels. Al-Mu'ayyad said the armed conflict within the PLO and between its leaders has adversely affected the issue's future. Had it not been for Arab and Gulf mediation, the cause would have been weakened more in front of the Arab and world public opinion and the role the Palestinians can play in any future negotiations to confirm the Palestinian people's self-determination would have been greatly reduced.

The Bahraini information minister affirmed that Bahrain believes that the Palestinians should be left alone in defining the role they will play in their future now that all Arab summits and charters have unanimously decided that the PLO is the party responsible for adopting decisions to determine the fate of its people.

AL-ADWA' Denounces U.S.-ISRAELI Alliance

GF100824 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0700 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Manama, 10 Dec (WAKH) — In Bahrain the weekly newspaper *AL-ADWA'* continued its denunciation of the U.S.-Israeli alliance. It said: This alliance increases the brutality and aggression against the Arab world. With the succession of U.S. administrations and presidents in the White House, no change has taken place regarding this alliance or its evil intentions. The two allies are committed to their plotting and conspiracy to weaken the Arabs, if not to exterminate them completely.

AL-ADWA' criticized the Arab stand on this alliance saying: This is taking place while our world is in a state of bewilderment and shameful capitulation, and the Arabs' reaction indicate their intention to start more differences among themselves and intensify their disintegration and conflicts.

AL-ADWA' continued: What is strange is that the Arab regimes — be they progressive or conservate — denounce the U.S. stand and condemn the U.S. blind bias toward Israel without doing anything about this prejudice or adopting any decisive united stand toward the U.S. interests in the Arab world to force it to review its policy. The newspaper called on the Arab countries to confront the U.S.-Israeli alliance and stop Arab differences. "Do something, O Arabs, before events sweep you away, before you awake and find no security or civilization, and before you lose your strength and find yourselves reduced to nothing on this earth," the paper concluded.

Bahraini Amir Receives Sudanese Minister

GF111144 Doha QNA in Arabic 1120 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] Manama, 11 Dec (QNA) — Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah today received Muhammad Khujali Salhin, Sudanese minister of information and national guidance, who is currently visiting Manama. The meeting was attended by Bahraini Information Minister Tariq 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad. The Sudanese minister arrived in Manama from Kuwait yesterday.

Minister Leaves

GF111900 Manama WAKH in English 1650 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] Manama, 11 Dec (WAKH) — Muhammad Salihayn, Sudanese minister of national guidance and information, left here today after a 2-day visit to Bahrain. He was seen off by Tariq al-Mu'ayyad, Bahraini information minister, and his under secretary, Shaykh 'Isa ibn Rashid Al Khalifah.

In a statement to WAKH, the Sudanese information minister hailed Sudanese-Bahraini relations and said that during his visit he reviewed bilateral relations with his highness the amir of Bahrain, Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah. The Bahraini and Sudanese views were identical, he added.

The Sudanese minister indicated that his meeting with the Bahraini Prime Minister His Excellency Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah centered on bilateral relations and current Arab issues. Talks with Bahraini Information Minister Tariq al-Mu'ayyad resulted in an information agreement formula between and exchanging radio and television programs and visits between Bahrain and the Sudan, he added.

KUWAIT

Materials on 12 December Explosions

KUNA Roundup

LD121624 Kuwait KUNA in English 1530 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 12 (KUNA) — Seven separate explosions shook Kuwait within a two hour period Monday morning prompting an emergency cabinet session and causing 2 deaths and 54 injuries, according to official figures. All the blasts were caused by car-bombs, with the exception of the first, and according to available accounts the most destructive blast occurred at the U.S. embassy here, and was carried out by the driver of an explosive-laden truck.

Other targets dotted around the capital and its suburbs varied from the French Embassy, two residential blocs housing American employees and three Kuwaiti installations: the international airport's control towar, a gas installation in the Ash-Shu'aybah industrial area belonging to the Kuwait National Petroleum Company, and an electricity tower in the city's outer suburbs.

A further attempt at detonating a booby-trapped car was foiled when security forces defused an explosive device in a vehicle parked outside Hawalli passports office in the suburb of Ar-Rumaythiyah.

As news of the explosions came in, the cabinet went into emergency session, and was joined by head of the National Guard Shaykh Salim al-'Ali and National Assembly Speaker Muhammad Yusuf al-Adsani.

Two statements issued by Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn indicated that security men were taking all necessary steps to investigate the incidents. The owners of the cars used in the attacks had been traced and a number of arrests were made. The minister said that a number of leaders of neighbouring and friendly countries had been in touch with government leaders about the incidents, and that the authorities were determined to track down the perpetrators as soon as possible.

The first attack, at 9:30 am occurred when the driver of an explosive-laden truck smashed through the gates of the U.S. Embassy's seafront compound in Bnayd al-Gar district, passed the guards at the main entrance in a side-street and raced towards the embassy's main administrative and consular building. Accounts differred as to whether one or two people were in the truck, but some eyewitnesses said the driver leapt from the vehicle as it approached the building, detonating on impact.

The explosion ripped through the building, which was full of embassy employees and visa applicatns, with a deafening roar that could be heard all over the city and sent window panes flying in appartment blocks hundreds of metres away. The adjacent Hilton Hotel suffered non-structural (?damage), and flying metal and masonry was hurled outside the fenced embassy compound. A major fire broke out as a result and firemen, medics and rescue workers rushed to the compound as security forces sealed off the entire district of the well-guarded embassy.

Later, bulldozers were seen entering the sight to clear rubble and knock down shaky structures, and eyewitnesses said that the targetted building later collapsed completely.

Casualty figures were conflicting: figures available here were unclear because of the other bombings that followed close on the heels of the U.S. embassy attack, while sources in Washington spoke of initial figures of four dead and 14 injured. All the casualties it seems, were either locally-recruited staff or non-Americans attending to business at the embassy, although a precise breakdown of nationalities was not available.

A number of top officials, including deputy Premier Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad and several National Assembly members arrived at the site to inspect the damage and resuce operations.

From Morocco, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz provided the first official American reaction to the incident, denouncing the bombing, and vowing that the U.S. would persist in its Middle East policy regardless.

Less than half an hour after the U.S. Embassy explosion, a booby-trapped car exploded at Kuwait Airport flinging debris through a 20-metre radius, and killing one and injuring several other people. The identity of the victim was not known, and some reports alleged that he was the driver of the car, a Buick which was parked in an employee's parking lot. The vehicle was totally destroyed, and material damage was sustained in the airport's nearby telecommunications centre and control tower, according to the civil aviation administration.

At about 10:45, a booby-trapped car exploded at the French embassy compound in Kuwait city suburb of Jabriyah. Accounts differed as to how the bomb-laden car approached the embassy.

which is located on one of Kuwait's main highways. An embassy source said that the car involved was parked by the compound's main gate, and blew up destroying three other parked vehicles and damaging four others.

The French consulate building suffered the brunt of the damage with one wall demolished and extensive damage, whereas the nearby chancery building, as well as neighbouring appartment blocs, had their windows blasted out. Three people were reported injured, one seriously, all of them reportedly students at the French-run Voltaire Institute which is located within the compound.

Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Rashid ar-Rashid later visited the site.

In paris, the French government voiced strong condemnation of the incident. A French Government statement placed trust in the Kuwaiti authorities' ability to track down and prosecute the perpetrators.

Official figures for human casualties of the three incidents stood at two deaths and 54 injuries, according to Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, who added that any new developments would be made public by the government.

Simultaneously, two similar car-bombs were detonated near residential premises occupied by American citizens working in Kuwait. The first of these was a building accomodating American employees of Italstrada company, in Al-Bida' district along the coast from Kuwait city. The building's doorman said that a Subaru car, which had been parked overnight in a lot adjacent to the building, exploded Monday morning, sparking off another blast in a nearby vehicle which was carrying around 20 gas cylinders. There were no details of any casualties in the blast.

Another American residential building was targeted in an explosion combining a boody-trapped car and a nearby pickup laden with gas cylinders. The building, in the suburb of Salwa, suffered slight damage and broken window-panes, as did several neighboring apartment blocs.

In further attacks in the wave of car-bombings Monday, two public installations were the scene of almost identical combinations of car bomb and gas cylinder blasts, while a third public building was saved by the prompt action of security forces. In the industrial area of Ash-Shu'aybah, some 45 kilometres south of Kuwait a Mercedes lorry carrying gas cylinders exploded near an oil installation of Kuwait National Petroleum Company. An Ash-Shu'aybah area security source said that 10 people had been injured, one seriously. Three of the victims were Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) workers and five employed by a refinery maintenance company located nearby. The other two were working for a contracting company carrying out repairs in the area.

The source said that some 50 or 60 gas cylinders were probably carried by the exploding lorry which only succeeded in damaging the installation's perimeter fence. He added that the blast could have been much more serious as piles of an easily-inflammable sulphur-based substance were dumped nearby. The installation's operations were not hindered, and tight security was imposed on the area.

Another of the explosions, outside the electricity control centre on Kuwait's fifth ring road, did not cause any material damage apart from two cars, one of which carried the explosive device used in the blast. No injuries occurred at the site. The centre was put under guard, but it was reported to be functioning as normal with the building itself unaffected due to the distance between the explosive-laden car and its apparent intended target.

Security sources meanwhile reported defusing a car-bomb in a vehicle parked outside Hawalli passport office, situated on a busy but unbuilt-up roundabout in the suburb of Ar-Rumaythiyah.

Reaction to the incidents has been intense, but among Kuwait residents surprise was probably the dominant feeling. The unfamiliar sight of stepped-up security measures around the bomb targets and other public buildings was, like the wave of explosions itself, totally unprecedented in this normally peaceful country. Statements of condemnation from both senior officials and foreign governments have been widespread, with Kuwait fellow Gulf cooperation council partners clearly stating their concern at the incidents.

Prime minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah and National Assembly Speaker Muhammad Yusuf al-'Adsani were among those firmly deploring the bombings and assuring that all steps would be taken to deal with those responsible for the wave of explosions.

Arrest of Suspects

LD122002 Kuwait KUNA in English 1855 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 12 (KUNA) — The Assistant Interior Undersecretary for Public Security, Brigadier 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Juma'a assured Monday evening all citizens and residents of Kuwait that the security situation was well under control and announced that some suspects in this morning blast incidents were arrested while all involved will soon be rounded up. In an interview over Kuwait television, Brigadier al-Juma'a stated that the common device used in today's explosions was gas cylinders and explained that inspection of the explosion debris showed that mnay of the cars used in the operations were laden with such cylinders. The security official hoped in [as received] the earliest apprehension of the perpetrators of these crimes, and appealed to citizens and residents of Kuwait not to listen to exaggerated rumours about the incidents.

Papers on Security Situation

GF131105 Doha QNA in Arabic 0955 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, 13 Dec (QNA) — The security and intelligence organs in Kuwait continued their investigations to uncover the dimensions of the heinous aggression to which its institutions and other places were subjected yesterday. The security forces managed to immediately ensure full control of the situation after the incident and they gathered important evidence, the details of which are expected to be released after completion of investigation.

The Kuwaiti newspapers today carried some of the results of the investigation. *AL-ANBA'* noted that it is believed that the booby-trapped cars used in the explosions were registered in the name of one person who could be the driver of the car that broke into the building that houses the U.S. Embassy. The paper stressed that the driver, who dies, was identified through his fingerprints. The paper did not report on the other driver who is currently being treated at a hospital following injuries he received after being thrown out of the car by the power of the blast.

'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, minister of state for Cabinet affairs, denied reports disseminated by news agencies yesterday that restrictions were being clamped on the departure of Palestinians, Iraqi, Syrians, Jordanians, Lebanese, and Iranians. The minister told *AL-QABAS* that the necessary measures are being implemented at the airport with the aim of checking those who depart the country, particularly those under suspicion.

The Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-WATAN* reported that the first quick precautionary measure undertaken by the Kuwaiti Government was to withdraw the guards who are currently protecting the Arab and foreign embassies and to replace them with units of the armored forces which belong to the Kuwaiti Armed Forces. The paper indicated that a number of these units have been deployed around public institutions in the country. Moreover, the Kuwaiti Interior Ministry has begun to organize a search campaign in the main streets that lead to the entrances or the outlets of the capital, its suburbs, and the highways.

Minister Issues Casualty Figures

LD121742 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn has issued the following statement:

The security machinery is continuing its investigations into the explosions which took place this morning. It has found cooperation from all citizens and the various spheres of state machinery.

The number of victims of the incidents are: four dead — one a Syrian citizen working in the American Embassy, the second an Egyptian working at the airport. The nationalities of the other two are not yet known. They were killed at the American Embassy. The Number of injured still in hospitals reached 62, among them 6 Kuwaitis, 13 Indians, 11 Egyptians, 10 Jordanians, 4 Bangladeshis, 3 Syrians, 7 Pakistanis, 2 Iranians, and 1 each from Sri Lanka, Britain, Switzerland, France, and Lebanon.

There is no truth in news agencies reports on an unexploded bomb being discovered in a police station.

Prime Minister's Remark

LD121607 Kuwait KUNA in English 1559 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 12 (KUNA) — H.H. Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah said the H.H. the amir and the Kuwaiti Government and people strongly condemned the seven bomb attacks Monday on the U.S. and French embassies and other public utilities. He vowed that these criminal assaults will not pass unpunished, and described the explosions as "mean, cowardly and criminal acts which targetted the stability and security of this peaceful country which opened its arms to all Arabs, Muslims and honest people from all over the world."

The seven successive explosions earlier in the day have killed two people and wounded 54 others, according to official reports.

Shaykh Sa'd underlined that the government will take "the strictest and toughest measures against those criminals and culprits and will purge the country from all suspicious elements who have abused the tolerance of this hospitable country." The government, he added in a statement, the government will also take all deterrent measures to preserve the country's security and stability, "so that it remains a haven of peace for all those living on its good earth."

The crown prince affirmed that "the perpetrators of these crimes and those behind them would be totally illusioned and mistaken if they thought that by such odious crimes they can make Kuwait veer off the course it has chosen for itself". All Kuwait, he said will stand in the face of those criminals and bandits, who want to it (?experience evil). "We will sacrifice all valuables for the dignity of our home country," he said, adding that this was a responsibility that the Kuwaiti people would not hesitate to shoulder.

Assembly Speaker's Comment

LD121818 Kuwait KUNA in English 1636 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 12 (KUNA) — Speaker of the National Assembly Muhammad Yusuf al-Adsani said the seven bomb explosions in Kuwait today were foreseen within the framework of political developments and current circumstances. He did not elaborate but stressed "we should not be shaken by what happened" noting such attacks are common in European capitals and all over the world.

In a statement to the Tuesday edition of *AL-WATAN* daily, he said violence, in its broad concept, has become the main feature of modern civilization. Al-Adsani said he was confident that the Kuwait security apparatus and the authorities are capable of confronting such incidents, but warned against the proliferation of rumors in the Kuwaiti society including Kuwaiti nationals and expatriates, so that the developments would not be exaggerated.

He said he was also confident that these incidents will be an incentive for the Kuwaiti people to close ranks and cooperate with the authorities as to stand in the face of such attacks and avert their recurrence.

Kuwait Governor's Remarks

LD131123 Kuwait KUNA in English 1103 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 13 (KUNA) — The driver of the explosive-laden truck which crashed through the gates of the U.S. Embassy Monday died in the incident and his nationality remains yet

unknown, Kuwait Governor Shaykh Salim Sabah an-Nasir said Tuesday. The governor said the bombing incidents in Kuwait were carried out after thorough planning and in a way which aimed at confusing the authorities through rumours. Shaykh Salim pointed out that diversification of the targets helped in the confusing but he stressed that security forces handled the situation properly.

He said investigation is underway with the suspects held after the bombings, but gave no further details.

The governor did not rule out the possibility that the objectives of the acts were to instigate trouble and draw a wedge between citizens and Arabs living in Kuwait by means of spreading rumours attributing the bombing incidents to certain people. He said Kuwait supports Arab struggle including the Palestinian cause and stands firm in the face of foreign challenge and designs.

The governor praised the press for standing up to its responsibility and not exaggerating the events. He stated that the victims whose wounds were slight have left hospital.

Arab Leaders Voice Solidarity

LD121932 Kuwait KUNA in English 1806 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 12 (KUNA) — Four leaders of the six member states [of the] Gulf Cooperation Council, which also groups Oman and Kuwait, and the leaders of Iraq and Arab Republic of Yemen voiced solidarity with Kuwait in the wake of the wave of explosions that occurred here early Monday. An official statement released here Monday night said the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah received the solidarity calls from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, the Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, president of the United Arab Emirates Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and the amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salaman Al Khalifah.

President Saddam Husayn of Iraq and President 'Ali Abdallah Salih of the Arab Republic of Yemen also telephoned Shaykh Jabir expressing solidarity with Kuwait over these incidents, the statement added. The official statement said Shaykh Jabir assured the leaders who contacted him that "Kuwait, both people and government, stands firmly against the saboteurs, who intend evil to our stable and secured country".

Assembly Urges 'Stricter Measures'

LD131108 Kuwait KUNA in English 1026 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 13 (KUNA) — The Kuwaiti National Assembly Tuesday strongly condemned the "criminal acts" committed through a series of blasts the country witnessed yesterday. In a statement issued following an in camera session lasting for three hours, the Assembly called for strict measures to be taken against "any one intending to meddle with the security and stability of this country."

Central Bank on Oil Production Increase

LD091745 Kuwait KUNA in English 1417 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 9 (KUNA) — Kuwait's rate of production of crude oil in the first quarter of 1983 recorded an increase of 9 percent over the corresponding quarter of the previous year, with the rate reaching within 879 thousand barrels/day a central bank release said Friday. The accelerated rate of production in the period under reference is attributed to the improved conditions for marketing Kuwaiti oil exports as the prices of Kuwait's oil were reduced by 12.4 percent beginning the first of February 1983 and then by around 3.5 percent beginning the first of March under the decision taken by OPEC during the London conference in the middle of that month.

While the decision reducing the prices of Kuwait oil was effected retroactively from the 1st of March 1983, the prices of similar crudes in a number of other countries remained at relatively higher levels up to the middle of that month. These price developments have had a direct effect in eliminating the numerous marketing difficulties which Kuwaiti oil exports encountered throughout 1982 when Kuwait opted to completely abide by the price levels fixed by OPEC at the time when a number of oil exporting countries tended to introduce successive price reductions, the bank's statistical bulletin for July-September added.

On the other hand, Kuwait's exports of refined oil in the first quarter of 1983 realized a tangible increase (to 435 thousand barrels/day) of around 58 percent over the corresponding quarter of the previous year. Consequently, the share of refined oil exprots rose to more than half (52.6 percent) the total of Kuwait's oil exprots. This development is considered of great improtance because of its direct positive effect on the level of Kuwait's oil receipts. The average price for refined oil exports in the first quarter of 1983 recorded an increase of 16.5 percent over the level of crude oil prices in the same period, the report said.

PDRY Foreign Minister Departs 10 Dec

LD101224 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1146 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, 10 Dec (KUNA) — 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali, PDRY foreign minister, left here today at the end of a visit to Kuwait during which he delivered a message from PDRY Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad to Amir Shakyk Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah. He was seen off by Rashid ar-Rashid, under secretary of the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry.

Papers Rap U.S. Policy in Arab Region

9 Dec AL-WATAN

GF101525 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 9 Dec 83 p 1

[Editorial: "Is It Time for a Summit???"

[Text] U.S.-Israeli policy has showed its teeth in ignoring the interests of the Arab nation. The United States is threatening

Syria on the pretext of self-defense. The strategy of Kissinger and Haig began to dominate the White House on the basis that the Middle East is a vital region for the United States. Even Egypt, which is a partner in the Camp David accords, describes this policy as a crisis.

Will Reagan concentrate 500,000 American soldiers in Lebanon to launch aggressive attacks on the Arab countries in the same way the American concentrations did in Vietnam? Reagan's aides speak openly about military strength as being the only answer in implementing the U.S.-Israeli policy against Lebanon and Syria. The secret U.S.-Israeli agreements have now become obvious through the aggressive air, ground, and naval coordination against Syria and the national forces in Lebanon. This aggressive policy cannot be confronted with unilateral Arab diplomacy but has to be deterred by collective Arab action because the U.S. policy wants to lead the region to a state of disorder in order to succeed in passing the Israeli and U.S. designs of domination and occupation.

This U.S. aggressive policy is being implemented in a shameless manner and in a way that contradicts all international norms. This policy emerged after the Fes summit although that summit proposed the minimum for settling the Middle East crisis. The problems lies in the fact that the collective Arab position has not proposed any possibility of resisting the aggression and occupation. Despite the fact that the Arab material and human resources are capable of disturbing the Americans and their allies, this option was not proposed at the collective Arab level.

This is the reason which lured the United States and Israel to adopt the maximum limits of confronting the Arab forces and to choose Lebanon to be the second country to sign an agreement that is similar to the Camp David accords. The move is now taking place in Lebanon to impose an imperialist-Zionist equation on Syria so that the Zionist enemy can move in all directions.

If the Arab summit is to be held, it should be held now. This summit may have something to say regarding this situation, in which the U.S. imperialism ignores the Arab future in light of an unprecedented Arab retreat.

10 Dec AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM

GF111522 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 10 Dec 83 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "Under the Cover of the Treaty, an Open War in Lebanon"]

[Excerpts] The United States wants Lebanon to become a surrogate and not an independent Arab state. Although some Lebanese parties have been involved in this game, the Americans and Israel want to subjugate and liquidate the Nationalist Forces and then to claim that the Lebanese people are involved in the U.S. alternative. That is why U.S. naval units carry out daily provocations and aggressions against the Lebanese Nationalist Forces in cooperation with the Lebanese Army and the Phalangists in an attempt to weaken them and deplete their energies so as to enable the Lebanese Army, at a certain time in the future, to overrun their positions.

Perhaps the United States wanted, among other things, through its air aggression on the Syrian forces last week, to intimidate the Lebanese Nationalist Forces by starting a confrontation with Syria to show that the United States and Israel will not retreat from their plans in Lebanon.

Now that the U.S. presence in Lebanon has become open military aggression, it has given every Lebanese and Arab citizen the justification to fight it because it is illegitimate, even if it claims that the Lebanese Government wants it. By saying that the Lebanese president will try in the coming stage to widen the representation of the Lebanese sects and forces in his government — this is what McFarlane said — the U.S. Government says that the current Lebanese Government lacks the legitimacy which would enable it to join the U.S. forces.

U.S. logic is always crooked and based on strength. In fighting the Lebanese Nationalist Forces, which represent three-thirds of the Lebanese people at least, the U.S. forces are trying to forcibly wrest legitimacy for the Lebanese Government through their presence in Lebanon.

What remains is for us not to allow the Lebanese Nationalist Forces to fall in the trap which is now clearer than any time before.

National Assembly Holds Secret Session 10 Dec

LD101831 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] The National Assembly held a secret session today at the government's request chaired by its speaker, Muhammad Yusuf al-Adsani. The session lasted about 5 hours, ending at about 1415.

OMAN

Sultan Qabus Receives Reagan Envoy

GF121700 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Excerpt] His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id received in his office at the As-Sib Palace this evening Donald Rumsfeld, personal envoy of U.S. President Ronald Reagan to the Middle East, who conveyed to him a message from his excellency the U.S. President. The audience was attended by Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Major General 'Ali Majid al-Ma'mari, first military aide and director of the palace office.

Omani Official Leaves for Pakistan With Message

GF130852 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Shabib ibn Yaymur, minister of state and special envoy of His Majesty Sultan Qabus, today left for Pakistan on a 1-day official visit. In a statement to the radio correspondent, he said that he carries a verbal message from his majesty the sultan to

Pakistani President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

Upon departure he was seen off by Sayf ibn Hamad ibn Su'ud, deputy chief of the sultani court for protocol affairs, and the Pakistani ambassador accredited to the Sultanate.

QATAR

Amir Opens Consultative Assembly Session

GF100854 Doha QNA in Arabic 0730 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Doha, 10 Dec (QNA) — Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani opened here this morning the 12th ordinary session of the Qatari Consultative Assembly. The opening session was attended by Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and minister of defense; shaykhs; ministers; minstry under secretaries; heads of diplomatic missions; the speaker and members of the Consultative Assembly; dignitaries; and senior Qatari officials.

In his opening speech, the amir said that the massive achievements which the GCC has accomplished since its establishment are the best proof of the success of the collective march of the GCC countries in progressing in studied steps to fulfill the sublime goals of the six countries. His highness the amir affirmed that the GCC was established to fulfill the dearest goals of the leaders and peoples of the Gulf region in laying down the best bases to strengthen cooperation among its states to achieve Gulf integration on all levels. This integration is the best way to achieve more progress, prosperity, and stability for the six countries and enable them to carry out their duties for the Arab and Islamic nations and the entire international community.

Greek Oil Tanker Sinking off Qatar Coast

NC101916 Paris AFP in English 1907 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] Manama, Dec 10 (AFP) — A Greek oil tanker loaded with 360,000 barrels of crude oil which has been blazing off the coast of Qatar since yesterday began to slowly sink today, official sources in Qatar said. An official of the Qatar oil organisation, which has been supervising the rescue operation 35 miles northeast of Doha, said water had breached the enginer room of the tanker, the *"Pericles,"* and that the fire had spread from there to two of the five oil tanks. The tanks were still burning, the official said.

His statement confirmed information supplied by Smit International, whose bahrain-based Middle East branch is in charge of the rescue operation.

The cause of the blaze that began five hours after the tanker set sail was still not known the official said. Only the captain is still aborad the ship surrounded by resuce vessels equipped to fight fire and pollution, but the rest of the crew has been evacuated, he said.

Extra equipment to fight the blaze was expected to arrive tomorrow from Rotterdam, the official added.

SAUDI ARABIA

Government Issues Statement on Kuwait Blasts

LD122221 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2112 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 12 Dec (SPA) — King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz chaired a Cabinet meeting this evening. Following the meeting, Information Minister 'Ali ash-Sha'ir told SPA and Saudi television that at the beginning of the meeting the Cabinet reviewed the new developments which took place this morning. It also took note of Kuwaiti official information media reports concerning the painful and regrettable incidents that took place in certain areas of the fraternal State of Kuwait. The minister said that the Cabinet later issued the following statement:

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has received with the deepest feeling of pain and indignation Kuwaiti official information media reports on this morning's explosions which took place in succession in certain areas of the fraternal State of Kuwait. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, represented by its king, government, and people, while denouncing these criminal and terrorist acts, shares with their brothers in the State of Kuwait their indignation at these painful incidents which benefit no one except the enemies of the Arab and Islamic nations.

There is no doubt that our brothers in Kuwait have enough ability and experience to enable them to control matters and maintain security and stability. The enemies of the Arab and Islamic nation will not cease to engineer conspiracies aimed at shaking the foundations of security in this area for the purpose of taking over its resources. There is no way of confronting their plots except through solidarity, cooperation, and unity for the good, strength, and the invincibility of the sons of the Arab and Islamic nation. We pray to Almighty God to protect the fraternal state, its security, stability, and prosperity. We also ask him to provide us with security in our homeland, to protect our religion, ward off the evil of sedition, and guide our step in a way that will please God.

The minister added that the Cabinet then discussed other matters on the agenda.

Papers Condemn Explosions in Kuwait

GF130708 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 13 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Today's papers commented editorially on the horrible explosions which took place in fraternal Kuwait yesterday.

AL-YAWM said: Undoubtedly, those who engineered what took place yesterday will fall. They planned to create confusion and chaos in the beloved Gulf. But the unity of the Gulf, which is represented in the GCC, will make them miss this opportunity and they will be the losers. This is clear from the reaction of the GCC leaders, including his majesty the king, who called up his highness the amir of Kuwait, and other GCC leaders who made

phone calls. These leaders stressed their adhesion and concern with preserving the security of the Gulf, the safety of its people, and ensuring its future in addition to eliminating any side that designs to shake its security and safety.

AL-JAZIRAH said: If there are sides willing to settle their political accounts with their opposite sides, then this should not be executed on an inch of our Gulf territories, nor should it inflict any harm on any of our institutions or even upset any of our citizens.

AR-RIYAD said: No sane person can claim that a peaceful country that exerted its financial capabilities and responsible efforts to unify the Arab positions and to prop up Arab solidarity and ensure Arab international leverage should be compensated by booms of explosions. It is also insane to claim that the language of dialogue, of democracy, and of freedom can be practiced through this destructive policy.

AN-NADWAH said: Through these criminal acts these sinful hands try to drive a Gulf country into the furnace of dispute and sabotage in order to execute their plans and serve their goals. But they will not find in any Gulf country the optimum atmosphere for the execution of these plans and goals. Kuwait rejects the execution of this policy on its territories and is backed in this stance by all the GCC countries and all the Arab countries with no exceptions.

Fahd Receives Call From Syria's Al-Asad

LD122105 Riyadh SPA in English 1941 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Riyadh, Dec 12, SPA — HM King Fahd received a telephone call from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad here tonight. The Syrian president expressed his thanks and gratitude to HM King Fahd, Crown Prince 'Abdullah and the Saudi royal family for the brotherly feelings he felt during his convalescence period. The two leaders avail the chance to exchange views on the current Arab situation.

UAE

AL-BAYAN Denounces Bombings in Kuwait

GF130728 Dubayy Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 13 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Under the headline "The Real Danger," the newspaper *AL-BAYAN* said: The danger that was realized in Kuwait yesterday not only jeopardizes that fraternal country, it also jeopardizes all the area countries. What took place yesterday leads to one conclusion: This was meant to reinforce or even hasten a plot designed to make the Gulf area fall under the hammer of interference and foreign dispute.

Inquiring about the goal behind making the Gulf countries look weak and incapable of defending their independence, their institutions, and the foreign missions, the paper said: The goal is to create pretexts in order to export foreign interference to this region with the excuse that this region is engulfed with wars and confusion and that it is incapable of preserving its stability through the independent decisionmaking. This entails, in accordance with the logic of the superpowers, direct military interference and imposition of stability in accordance with the interests of these countries.

The paper pointed out that the Kuwait explosions were not mapped out by a group of adventurists but by backers who have technical capabilities and the ability to supply sabotage material in this Gulf Arab country and to provide transport vehicles and select explosion targets and the people to carry out these operations.

Concluding, *AL-BAYAN* warned that such incidents and those who caused it could lead to the fall of countries in the region into the foreign clamp, indicating that when the foreigner comes to this region with his troops, he will only admit whatever is in his interest. The paper added that considering gains and losses, the whole region, and not just part of it, will be the loser.

YAR

Foreign Ministry Source on Kuwait Blasts

GF121920 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] An official source at the Foreign Ministry has stated the following:

The YAR leadership, government, and people are following extreme concern the news about the explosions which took place in fraternal Kuwait this morning — which represent aggression against the security and stability of Kuwait and shake the security and stability of the whole Gulf region, as well as all the Arab countries — in order to divert attention away from continued conspiracies and hostile plans against the Lebanese and Palestinian people in the Lebanese and Palestinian arenas. The YAR leadership, government, and people condemn these criminal and irresponsible acts and affirm their utmost support for the Kuwaiti leadership, government, and people in order to confront those who threaten its security and stability, which are inseparable part of Yemen's security and stability. It also calls on the Arab nation to be alert and vigilant toward the conspiracies and intrigues which are being prepared by those who hate the Arab and Islamic nation. It calls on the Arab leaders and peoples again to hasten to unite their ranks in order to confront all these threats.

Cyprus' Ladhas Meets People's Assembly Speaker

NC121344 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA) — People's Assembly Speaker Dr Kamil Laylah received at his office today Yeoryios Ladhas, president of the Cypriot House of Representatives, and the delegation accompanying him. The talks at the meeting dealt with bilateral friendly relations, the Cypriot question, and the declaration of a state in northern Cyprus. Dr Kamil Laylah affirmed during the meeting Egypt's principled and firm stance regarding this question, and said Egypt's stand stems from its belief in and commitment to the UN principles and resolutions, Egypt's pioneer position in the Nonaligned Movement, and its eagerness to enable the movement to carry out its role and responsibility in easing the international tension and solving conflicts by peaceful means, as well as from Egypt's belief in peace and international legitimacy.

The People's Assembly added: We support the regional integrity of Cyprus. We support the political independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Cyprus and its nonalignment. If there were any problems between the two Cypriot communities then these should be settled through bilateral negotiations.

The president of the Cypriot House of Representatives expressed his country's appreciation for Egypt's stand and invited the People's Assembly speaker to visit Cyprus at the head of a delegation from the Assembly. The meeting was attended by People's Assembly Deputy Speaker Sayyid Dhaki; Dr Muhammad 'Abd al-Ilah, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee; Kamal Henry Abadir, chairman of the Defense and National Security Committee; and Dr Hilmi al-Hadidi, chairman of the Education and Scientific Research Committee.

Ladhas is due to meet tomorrow with Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din; Consultative Council Speaker Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim, and Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The Cypriot parliamentary delegation arrived in Cairo yesterday on a 5-day visit. It includes six members representing various political parties in the Cypriot House of Representatives. The delegation will hold talks for promoting bilateral relations.

Meets With Ghali

NC121406 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1333 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, today met with Yeoryios Ladhas, Cypriot House of Representatives president, who is currently visiting Egypt at the invitation of Dr Kamil Laylah, the People's Assembly speaker. The meeting was attended by Dr Muhammad 'Abd al-Ilah, chairman of the Assembly's foreign relations committee. The conferees reviewed all aspects of the situation in the Middle East, as well as Cyprus' role in assisting the Palestinians who will be evacuated from Lebanon. They also discussed relations between Egypt and Cyprus. Dr Ghali said relations between Cyprus and Egypt are witnessing increasing progress and are proceeding well in various fields.

Italian Industry Minister Meets With Counterpart

AU090918 Rome ANSA in English 0841 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] (ANSA) Cairo December 9 — Italy and Egypt have agreed to keep up their record in industrial cooperation, especially in the fields of steel, chemicals, and energy. Italian Industry Minister Renato Altissimo conferred here Thursday with his Egyptian counterpart Muhammad al-Gharuri and Energy and Electricity Minister Mahir Abaza. After the meetings, both sides voiced satisfaction for the "excellent" relations between them and stressed the "adaptability" of Italian industries to Egypt's development requirements. The cooperation plans include a project to double the production capacity of "Nas-co," Fiat's commission agent in Egypt, which will step up its output from 25,000 to 45,000 vehicles a year. Others include a plan to manufacture fertilizers in conjunction with Italy's' "ANIC" and "Montedison" firms and the construction in Egypt of a 2,000-megawatt nuclear power plant. An Italian-French consortium, led by "Frematome" and "Ansaldo," are competing for the nuclear power station contract and, according to local industrial sources, it has a good chance of getting the two-billion-dollar order.

Departs Cairo 9 Dec

AU091553 Rome ANSA in English 1525 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] (ANSA) Cairo, December 9 — Industry Minister Renato Altissimo left Cairo today at the end of a visit which opened new prospects for Italo-Egyptian economic cooperation. "The tone of our talks was very satisfactory," Altissimo said, adding that there were significant openings for the future which he hoped could be firmed up in coming months.

'Ali on Italian Government's Message to Mubarak

NC121612 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA) — Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that the message which President Husni Mubarak received today from the Italian Government affirms Italy's desire to contribute to the establishment of peace in the area and to the success of the national reconciliation in Lebanon among the various parties. It also affirms Italy's desire to effectively contribute to a solution of the Middle East problem. 'Ali said that the message also outlines Italy's role in the Multinational Force in Lebanon. The Italian Government's message to President Husni Mubarak is in reply to the message which the president sent last week.

'Diplomatic Circles' Regret Kuwait Events

NC121538 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA) — Diplomatic circles in Cairo describe the events in Kuwait as regrettable because they lead to further instability in the area. These circles say the events affirm what Egypt has been advocating and continues to advocate: The need for ending the Iraqi-Iranian war as soon as possible, and also the importance of and need for solving the Palestinian problem, which is the core and basis of the Middle East problem and the key to a solution leading to a just and comprehensive

peace in the area.

Ambassador al-Kamil Denounces Kuwait Bombings
NC122138 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2103 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, 12 Dec (MENA) — Ambassador Husayn al-Kamil, director of the Egyptian interests office in Kuwait, denounced the bombing incidents which took place today in Kuwait. In a statement made today, the Egyptian ambassador said: We express our utmost pain for the innocent victims who fell as a result of these assaults. We denounce such terrorist acts which contradict the principles and values adopted by the Arab Republic of Egypt. The ambassador added: We convey our feelings of grief and sorrow to his majesty the prince of Kuwait and to the Kuwaiti ambassador for what happened today. We trust that brotherly Kuwait is capable as always of bringing matters back to the state of security and stability which everyone seeks.

Kuwaiti Airways Informed of Travel Restrictions
NC122132 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] The Kuwaiti Airways office in Cairo Airport today received a cable from the Kuwaiti authorities saying they should not to allow passengers to travel to Kuwait, except Kuwaiti and Gulf State nationals, and passengers travelling at the invitation of the Kuwaiti Government.

Egyptians Allowed Entry; Others Still Banned
NC130934 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 13 Dec (MENA) — Egypt Air airliners have resumed transporting Egyptian passengers to Kuwait. The first Egyptian airliner left Cairo this morning with 65 Egyptian passengers including the 21 members, of the Az-Zamalik soccer club, headed by Muhammad Hasan Hilmi and Captain Muhammad Latif, who are to play two friendly matches. The Kuwaiti authorities lifted the ban on Egyptians entering Kuwait at 2130 yesterday. Kuwaiti officials cabled the Egyptian authorities of their decision, but still bans entry or departure of Lebanese, Palestinians, Iranians, Iraqis, Jordanians, and Syrians, following the incidents in Kuwait yesterday.

Antitank 'Swingfire' Rocket Successfully Tested
NC130847 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Dec (MENA) — The long-range anti-tank "Swingfire" rocket, jointly manufactured by Egypt and Britain, was tested successfully yesterday. The rocket carries a destructive head equipped with a charge capable of penetrating all kinds of armor. Cairo *AL-AHRAM* says today that the rocket, during its demonstration test, scored a direct hit on the target. The British rocket has been developed to meet all the requirements of the Armed Forces.

Iraq To Retaliate Against Iran for Kuwait Blasts

JN130729 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0717 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Dec (INA) — Iraq has decided to strike militarily against selected Iranian targets in retaliation for Iran's heinous crime against fraternal Kuwait yesterday. In a statement to INA this morning, an Iraqi military spokesman said that Iraq considers Arab security as an integrated whole and that any aggression against any fraternal Arab country is an aggression against the Arab nation.

The spokesman said that despite repeated warnings and the UN Security Council's calls for a halt to the fighting or at least for neutralizing the Arab Gulf area and the Iraqi towns and villages, the Iranian ruling clique has continued to indulge in its sinful actions and aggression against Iraq's civilian targets and peaceful Iraqi borders. The latest of these crimes has been the one committed against our Kuwaiti brothers.

President Phones Kuwaiti Amir

JN121325 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1306 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Dec (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has announced Iraq's solidarity with fraternal Kuwait and condemned today's explosions in Kuwait.

In a telephone contact with His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah the Amir of Kuwait, at noon today, President Saddam Husayn stressed Iraq's readiness to place all its capabilities in the service of the security of fraternal Kuwait.

The president denounced the cowardly, barbaric acts which were perpetrated by suspect agents — collaborators of the enemies of the Arab nation and those who have ambitions against it.

Speaker Cables Kuwaiti Counterpart

JN121901 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1710 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] The Iraqi people's representatives have asserted their unlimited solidarity with the fraternal Kuwaiti people, and pledged all their capabilities to help safeguard Kuwait's stability and security, and to abort the new conspiracy aimed against the Arab territory, people, history, and civilization.

This came in a cable National Assembly Speaker Na'im Haddad sent to the Kuwaiti National Assembly speaker in which he denounced acts of terrorism and the explosions that occurred in Kuwait today.

Following is text of the cable:

During this dangerous situation in which our Arab nation is being exposed to two covetous and expansionist aggressions, Iranian and Zionist, the circle of conspiracy is being enlarged against the Arab nation to include, this time, the Kuwaiti people, land, and sovereignty.

Acts of terrorsim and the explosions that fraternal Kuwait witnessed today assert that the security of the Gulf and the stability of its people cannot be divided, and that they are the target of enemies who launch their aggressions against Iraq, Lebanon, and Palestine.

The representatives of the Iraqi people, who for more than 3 years have been confronting a vicious aggression against their existence, affirm their unlimited solidarity with the fraternal Kuwaiti people, and pledge all their capabilities to help safeguard Kuwait's stability and security in order to abort the new expansionist conspiracy against the Arab territory, people, history and civilization.

Signed: Na'im Haddad, National Assembly speaker

Unions Denounce Explosions

JN121456 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1420 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Dec (INA) — Iraqi popular and trade union organizations denounced the terrorist explosions that occurred in Kuwait today.

In cables to their counterparts in the fraternal country, the Iraqi organizations expressed their indignation over these cowardly acts aimed against the Kuwaiti people's security and stability. The Iraqi organizations announced their solidarity with the fraternal people, and their readiness to abort the new conspiracy which is a link in the chain of plots concocted against the Arab Gulf region and its people.

Armed Forces General Command Communique No 1,308

JN121745 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Dec [INA] — The Iraqi Armed Forces have killed three Iranians and captured two others in the northern sector of the battlefield. This was stated in Communique No 1,308 issued here this evening by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command.

The communique added that the Iraqi forces pounded an Iranian enemy patrol which tried to approach Iraqi forward positions east of Basra with all types of weapons, killing three. the following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,308 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces continued their activities in the sectors of operations against the forces of the clique of evil and rancor which is ruling in Tehran. The results of the activities yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our combat patrols pounded an enemy patrol which tried to approach our forward units' positions east of Basra with all types of weapons, killing three and wounding others, while the rest of

the patrol fled in terror. One of our forward units captured two Iranians in the northern sector of the battlefield, and they were evacuated to the rear.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 12 December 1983

President Chairs Cabinet Meeting 12 December

JN121243 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1226 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Dec (INA) — President Saddam Husayn chaired a 4-hour Cabinet meeting here today. The Cabinet discussed a number of issues and took appropriate measures and decisions on them. Among these issues were a working paper on bureaucracy in the government apparatus, traffic control on highways, and a working paper prepared by the construction planning committee.

The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Taha Muhy ad-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president; a number of RCC members; a number of Ba'th Party Regional Command members; director of the president's office; and a number of government officials.

GDR Deputy Chairman Arrives, Meets Officials

JN091818 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1710 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Guenther Kleiber, GDR deputy Council of Ministers chairman, is heading an official delegation which arrived in Baghdad today. Guenther Kleiber said that he will hold talks with Iraq officials on spheres of cooperation in light of the results achieved by the Iraqi-GDR economic and technical cooperation agreement during the past 10 years. The GDR deputy chairman expressed his country's appreciation for Iraq's peace efforts and response to all efforts aimed at stopping the war with Iran. Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and minister of trade, and the GDR ambassador in Baghdad received the GDR deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers

Hasan 'Ali Receives Kleiber

JN101658 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister, today received Guenther Kleiber, deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, and his delegation. They discussed expanding cooperation between the two countries and implementing the minutes signed last June of the eighth Iraqi-GDR joint committee meeting. Kleiber stressed his country's desire to continue the promotion of its cooperation with Iraq to the highest level possible, and to establish the best formulas for strengthening their relations.

The meeting was attended by the GDR ambassador in Baghdad and the head of the department of economic relations with socialist countries in the Trade Ministry.

Ministers Meet Kleiber

JN101806 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1710 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Dec (INA) — Subhi Yasin, minister of industry and minerals, and Tariq Hamad al-'Abdallah, minister of light industries, today met separately with Guenther Kleiber, deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers and his delegation currently visiting Iraq. Talks during both meetings dealt with the means of promoting economic relations between the two countries and the participation of GDR companies in Iraqi development projects.

Ramadan Meets With Kleiber

JN111440 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1335 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Dec (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, met today withGuenther Kleiber, deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers. The two sides reviewed developing bilateral relations and discussed ways of expanding them in all fields in the interest of the two friendly peoples. They also discussed the Arab and international situation, which is of common interest to the two countries. The first deputy prime minister asked Guenther Kleiber to convey an official invitation to Willi Stoph, chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, to visit Iraq and hold talks on the means of strengthening and bolstering joint cooperation. Kleiber reaffirmed his country's desire to promote cooperation with Iraq in the various fields. He also stated that his country's establishment are ready to implement several Iraqi development projects.

Agriculture Minister Discusses Cooperation

JN111555 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1355 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Dec (INA) — Siddiq 'Abd al-Latif Yunis, Iraqi minister of agriculture and agrarian reform, met here today with Guenther Kleiber, deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, and his delegation. The two sides discussed the ways of promoting cooperation between the two friendly countries in exchanging expertise. They also discussed the possibility of manufacturing German agricultural machines and equipment in Iraq, and ways of promoting cooperation in the services that will be needed after the German agricultural machines and equipment are sold.

Hungarian Delegation Arrives in Baghdad 10 Dec

JN110844 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Dec (INA) — Tibor Melega, deputy minister of the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Trade and deputy chairman of the Hungarian side to the joint Hungarian-Iraqi committee, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Baghdad last night. During this visit, Melega will hold talks with Iraqi officials for reviewing what was agreed upon during the committee's previous session, to follow up what has been implemented, and to discuss the agenda of the committee's forthcoming session to be held in Baghdad early next year.

Trade Minister Receives Delegation

JN111445 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Dec (INA) — Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister, met here today with Tibor Melega, Hungarian deputy minister of foreign trade and deputy chairman of the Hungarian side to the Iraqi-Hungarian joint committee for economic, trade, and technical cooperation, and his delegation. The two sides discussed bilateral cooperation and the ways of promoting it.

Ramadan Receives Egyptian Union Official 12 Dec

JN122013 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, received Mukhtar 'Abd al-Hamid, chairman of the Egyptian Agricultural Workers Union, this evening.

The first deputy prime minister praised the pan-Arab stance of Egypt — both government and people — toward Iraq, which is waging a just, defensive war against the Iranian regime and its aggressor forces. He stressed that strengthening relations between the Iraqi and Egyptian vocational and popular organizations serves our Arab nation's interests and pan-Arab struggle because both countries assume a large role and historic responsibility in facing the nation's enemies.

Taha Yasin Ramadan reviewed the developments of the Iraqi-Iranian war from the military, political, and economic standpoint. He emphasized that the Iraqi people and their Armed Forces are capable fo deterring aggression and continuing development and construction.

Mukhtar 'Abd al-Hamid reiterated that the people and workers of Arab Egypt support Iraq in its just, pan-Arab battle in defense of its sovereignty and of the Arab nation's dignity. He said that the Iraqi people's stand under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn and under the state of deterioration being witnessed by the Arab homeland affirms our Arab nation's ability to firmly confront plots and defend the homeland's soil.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the spheres of cooperation between the two fraternal countries in the field of agriculture and the exchange of technical and vocational expertise.

Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz Leaves for PRC

JN120848 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0724 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Dec (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Baghdad on a visit to Beijing today at the invitation of the PRC government. In a statement to INA, 'Aziz said he will discuss with the PRC leaders bilateral relations, the situation in the region, and international issues of joint interest.

Oil Minister Returns From OPEC Meeting

JN110838 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Dec (INA) — Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi and his accompanying delegation, returned here from Geneva last night. The Iraqi oil minister had headed Iraq's delegation to OPEC's meetings which ended in Geneva last Thursday.

King Husayn 11 December ABC Interview
JN112135 Amman Television Service in English 2014 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Interview given by King Husayn via satellite with ABC's David Brinkley, George Wills, and Sam Donaldson on 11 December 1983 — video recorded]

[Text] [Brinkley] Your Majesty King Husayn by satellite from Jordan. Thank you very much for being with us today. I believe this is the first time you have been on American television in over a year, if my recollection is right. Your Majesty...

[Husayn, interrupting] I believe you are.
[Brinkley] Sorry, what did you say?
[Husayn] Go ahead sir.
[Brinkley] All right.
[Husayn] I believe you are. Yes, it has been a long time.

[Brinkley] The Israeli Cabinet met this morning and said at the end of the meeting that, in its view, it was time for you to involve yourselve in negotiations with Israel about the PLO and other matters. What is your response?

[Husayn] My response is that the situation in the area and in the world requires us to assess various developments. As far as I am concerned and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is concerned, we have always been committed to the cause of establishing a just durable peace in this area. We have tried our best to contribute towards that end. But as you well know, and the world, we are awaiting for the appropriate conditions — certainly, Palestinian participation and support, and Arab support — to be able to do so and also to know where we are headed for and whether we are going to succeed at long last in obtaining and achieving a just and durable peace.

[Brinkley] What do you thing of the prospects of those conditions, those you just specified, coming to be?

[Husayn] I believe that the conditions in the area are very dangerous. We are all at the edge of a precipice, and the area is threatened, and — as a result — world peace. Part of this deterioration is caused by the present tension between the superpowers. and...

[Wills, interrupting] Your Majesty, I am sorry go ahead. Your Majesty ...

[Husayn] Oh , I am sorry.

[Wills] Your Majesty, Israel, Syria, and Jordan have at least one thing in common, and that is they have all in the last 15 years been engaged in violent bloody conflict with Yasir 'Arafat's PLO . In 1974 at Rabat, the Arab nations designated the PLO the sole legitimate's spokesman of the Paelstinian people. Given that the PLO has been militarily dispersed physically, and weakened politically, and is now engaged in a civil war with itself, are you now ready as the king of a nation with a Palestinian majority to resume the role as the chief spokesman of the Palestinian people?

[Husayn] All of these developments do not alter the fact of the Rabat decision. And, we will continue to do business with a PLO which represents the people of Palestine and their hopes and aspirations ...

[Wills, interrupting] But which PLO is that ...

[Husayn] We will have to wait and see ...

[Wills, interrupting] Which PLO is that ...

[Husayn] Certainly, the PLO that we recognized over the years, and I did business with.

[Wills] That would be the 'Arafat wing, and not those supported by Syria?

[Husayn] No, any organization that is subservient to the will or policies of any Arab state or any force in this world is certainly one that we would not recognize.

[Brinkley] Your Majesty, is the presence of U.S. Marines in Beirut and the increasing tension between Washington and Damascus threatening the peace process there, or is it actually in a certain way helping it?

[Husayn] As far as Lebanon is concerned, I believe that the main objective was, is, and should be — certainly it is ours — to see a free independent Lebanon with the removal of all foreign forces from that country, the establishment of its sovereignty over its territory, and the unity of its people. Anything that helps that process is welcomed by us.

[Brinkley] Yes, but my question to you was: Do all those things help it that I mentioned?

[Husayn] I can't really be more specific. Only time will tell. But certainly the tensions in this world are not helping the solution of problems in this area.

[Wills] Your majesty, if I may: You are a very important person in the Middle East. You certainly understand the territory. You tell us that you have no idea whether the presence of U.S. Marines and tension between Washington and Damascus helps or hurt. I can't believe that, sir.

[Husayn] If the objective is what I outlined in terms of Lebanon and if the presence of the Marines and the Multinational force is to secure that objective, I believe that the objective should be clear before all by working for a simultaneous withdrawal of all forces from Lebanon as soon as possible. And , the presence of these forces in lebanon should be linked to attempting to secure the Lebanese reconciliation as soon as possible, as well ....

[Wills, interrupting] But is sounds like ....
[Husayn, continuing] and not for this presence to remain there indefinitely.

[Wills] But it sounds like you are saying when you talk about the simultaneous withdrawal of forces that you agree with President Reagan that Syria must withdraw at the same moment that Israel withdraws. Is that correct?

[Husayn] I have always stood for total withdrawal from Syria by both forces, of Israel and Syria and the military forces, from Lebanon. [sentence as heard]

[Brinkley] Your Majesty, the United States and Israel last week or the week before had just completed a new agreement on expansion of an existing agreement involving economic and military relationships. What is your view of it? What is your reaction to that?

[Husayn] We are still trying to understand its meanings and its implications. Certainly, what we have heard through media and reports is disturbing us enormously in this entire area, because after all the United States has a role and we hope a possible contribution to make for the establishment of a just and durable peace in this area. It certainly can do that, as the United States is a superpower and is interested in peace in this area. It cannot do it, if it has embarked upon a course that would make it an ally of Israel, in other words, an ally of a belligerent in the tragedy in which we all live.

[Brinkley] You find some aspects of it disturbing. Is that correct?

[Husayn] We are trying to find all the facts about what has happened and the meanings and implications of this.

[Wills] Your Majesty, if the Israelis would agree to freeze or severely limit settlements on the West Bank, would you come to the negotiating table with Israel?

[Husayn] As far as I am concerned, I am willing to do everything and anything that would bring us the fulfillment of our dream of a just and durable peace in this area. But I have my limitations. I have to have Palestinian support, Arab support. I have to know that we have a chance to get somewhere and so far I haven't seen any Israeli action that would indicate that Israel is willing to change its polices or approach. The occupied territories are still referred to as Judaea and Samaria, the settlement activities are continuing to create facts and obstacles in the path of any future peace, and there is no change or alteration in that.

[Donaldson] Do you believe that the settlement policy is advanced so far that there is almost a point of no return, that the Israeli presence is so large as to be irreversible, or so large as to be over the long-term intolerable?

[Husayn] I believe that it is fast approaching a point of being an obstacle that is almost impossible to surmount. In addition to that, we are very, very, deeply disturbed about a plan to reallocate people, Palestinians, from their present camps to locations in the Jordan Valley, which we believe is probably a first step towards pushing them out of the entire occupied area.

[Wills] But Your Majesty, if we are fast approaching this point, doesn't that make it all the more urgent for you to intervene in the process?

[Husayn] If my intervention had any results, I would certainly be willing to do so. However, the point is as things stand with the lack of clarity of where we are going, 242, the famous Security Council resolution, meant territory for peace. If the territory is contested to the point where Israel says it will not return, there is no chance for us to make any progress. And at the same time, one can't see how we can embark into an area where conceivably what one is asked to do is to take on not only Israel, but Israel's supporters in this world, maybe even the Palestinians. The Jordanians who might not feel very much that it would be going to lead to anywhere, to on such a venture. [sentence as heard] The Arabs, the Soviets, the whole world — I mean. This is asking the impossibility, and is utterly unrealistic.

[Brinkley] Your Majesty, if I may interrupt briefly here. We'll back with more questions for King Husayn in a moment. Your Majesty, something of a year ago, President Reagan offered a plan for at least a beginning of some sort peace settlement in the Middle East, which included an autonomous West Bank in association with Jordan. The Israelis rejected it very quickly. Do you have any further thoughts on it? Would you say it is alive at this date?

[Husayn] It certainly represented a very great hope at the time, and I do not believe that the President's determination to make a contribution for the establishment of a just and durable peace in this area has wavered. However, the facts are that Israel rejected the entire plan, as you well know.

[Wills] Your Majesty, to what extent does the Soviet presence in Syria represent a threat to Jordan and to peace in the Middle East?

[Husayn] The danger in the area is of polarization, and that is probably a very dangerous and serious development in this area due to its strategic location, and probably is born also of the fact of the tension that exists between the superpowers at this time.

[Wills] Well now, there are about 7,000 Soviet personnel in Syria, according to our estimates. Does that represent the kind of danger that you think could lead to a superpower confrontation?

[Husayn] Its a two-sided issue, and an escalation here could lead to an escalation there; it would be disasterous if polarization occurred in this area. What is at stake then is our freedom. Our identity as a people, and the rights of our future generations. What's more than that, the danger to all who live in this area and maybe the world.

[Wills] Now, as you know, President Reagan has said that one reason for the presence of U.S. forces there was to prevent the Middle East from falling into the Soviet bloc. Do you think that's likely, and do you thing that's helpful for the President to say that?

[Husayn] That is the President's view, and I have nothing to say about it. But I would like to say that if the root cause of all instability in this area is tackled — the still unresolved Arab-Israeli issue — then this area would live in peace and would live in freedom, free from all dangers and free of the possibilities that we see before us of eruptions and disasters overtaking all in this area.

[Donaldson] Your Majesty, you said a moment ago that Res-

olution 242 envisions a trade of territory for peace. Since Resolution 242 was passed in 1967, the settlement policy began. Would you now construe Resolution 242 to require as an exchange of territory for peace the dismantling of existing Israeli settlements?

[Husayn] in our view 242 means that these settlements are illegal. In point of fact they contravene every known international agreement in terms of administration of occupied territories. This is a reality, and this is why and where we say that a continuation of this policy is creating more and more obstacles in the path of the establishment of a just and durable peace.

[Donaldson] I understand your position, Your Majesty, on the continuation of the settlements, but my question is about whether or not you would see a pro forma of 242 requiring in the end the withdrawal of Jewish settlements on the West Bank?

[Husayn] They are there illegally, but what we are talking about is the basis for a process that begins and ends with the establishment of a just and durable peace, and my position at this stage is what it has always been: That these settlements are illegal. And obviously, when all are involved in attempting to secure an end to this tragedy, this is a particular aspect of it that is going to be the subject, that is going to be addressed (?obviously).

[Brinkley] Your Majesty, the Israelis regard the West Bank as a piece of territory conquered in war, a war in which they were attacked, and I believe their preference is to hold it as other countries around the world, perhaps including ours, hold territory conquered in war. So hasn't the West Bank become an absolutely immovable obstacle in your view?

[Husayn] No I believe that the West Bank is a conquered territory, but it has its people and it must be returned to the people, who must exercise their rights in it. And the formula is once again total withdrawal for total peace. This is the only way I can see out of this present crisis and tragedy.

[Donaldson] Your Majesty, Yasir 'Arafat is preparing to set sail from Tripoli, and there is some questions about whether Israel is going to let him go without attempting to attack the ship on which he is sailing. What would be the effect of such an attack?

[Husayn] It would be a terribel disaster and a very tragic crime if it does occur. And I believe that the Palestinians have been hounded enough over so many years, and there has got to be a stop to that.

[Donaldson] Well, now Your Majesty, perhaps you are not free to express yourself as you might like, but wouldn't the removal of Yasir 'Arafat perhaps help things?

[Husayn] No, I do not believe it would.

[Donaldson] Your Majesty, you said a moment ago that your policy is still under 242 — total withdrawal for total peace. as you know, the Israelis construe 242 as saying some withdrawal, but they are adamant that Israel will never again be a country 9 miles wide of the (?latrun salient) If it is your position that the Israelis must agree to total withdrawal for total peace, what is there to negotiate about? Wouldn't all the difficult things be settled?

[Husayn] Security is a state of mind. It's I believe, when both sides say there is something honorable, something just, something acceptable that they can live with and protect and it is in there interest to do so. As far as I am concerned, the basis for that is 242. It is certainly the basis for Camp David; it is in the basis for the President's recent initiative of September 1st 1982; it is the only foundation on which we can work. And this is why I say 242 must be the basis for any future process that eventually deals with this problem satisfactorily.

[Brinkely] Your Majesty, thank you very much for being with us today. We have enjoyed hearing your views.

Papers on King's ABC Interview

JN121104 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 12 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Peace Equation and the Fair Barter," *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* says: With all courage and frankness, King Husayn placed before the U.S. and world public the Middle East peace equation, which has to be the basis of any fruitful effort. This equation is that totalwithdrawal achieves total peace. This is because the concept of total peace, which is considered as an indivisible whole, must be faced by total withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory, which, in turn, constitutes an indivisible whole. Bartering the land for peace is the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 242, whose provisions provided the framework for all peace efforts. This channels matters back to their geographical and historical roots by returning the occupied territory to its lawful owners so they can exercise their legitimate rights to a dignified life and self- determination.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B says: King Husayn has declared Jordan's principles and his readiness to do anything for a just and durable peace in accordance with these principles and the peace equation. He said that he will not be acting individually, but with continuous Palestinian and Arab support within the framework of pan-Arab unanimity. The concept of peace is linked to the reality of land. Any talk about peace becomes a delusion if it is not linked to tangible signs indicating that any process or move will achieve its desired objective. Israel has proven through its policy inside and outside the occupied territory that its concept of peace does not include giving up the occupied territory. Therefore, by its settlement and expansionist policy, Israel is daily complicating the situation, making it impossible to overcome the knotty issue of peace. And in order to torpedo all peace efforts, Israel is pushing matters toward further deterioration and a conflagration by dragging the area to the abyss of polarization, which forebodes a great catastrophe for the peoples and states of the region and world peace. How can peace be achieved when Israel is daily creating new facts in the occupied territory and when its armies are occupying vast areas of Lebanese territory and the Golan, escalating confrontation and aggression everywhere, and hunting down the Palestinian people in their towns, villages, and camps and threatening their legitimate existence with extinction? How

can peace be achieved by creating tension and bringing the superpowers to the area to turn it into an arena for world power struggle in which only the states and peoples of the area will be victims? How can peace be established and maintained when the superpowers are increasing their strategic alliances with the states of the region and the false dangers of big power influence are overshadowing the real dangers of Zionist ambitions and policies in the area? All this is evident from the continuous attempt to drag the Middle East to the brink of the polarization abyss by aliminating the political framework of Middle East problems, internationalizing the conflict, and balkanizing the area.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B concludes: Peace cannot be established on a vacuum. So long as Israel is not ready to return the land which it is occupying by force, there will be no chance of progress toward peace. The West Bank and Gaza are occupied territories which must be returned to their rightful owners so they can exercise their legitimate rights on them. Israel must also withdraw from Lebanon and the Golan, because its unlawful presence on these territories is the real danger which is threatening the cause of peace and its future, not the fabricated dangers lying behind the strategic alliances. The real peace equation will remain as put forward by King Husayn to the whole world: total withdrawal for total peace.

Under the headline "King Husayn Returns the Ball to the U.S. and Israeli Court," *AD-DUSTUR* says: King Husayn has reaffirmed, in his interview with the ABC television network yesterday, Jordan's firm commitment to the search for a just and durable peace in the Middle East in accordance with the principles of his policy, which still considers UN Security Council Resolution 242 as the basis for any peace in the region. However, the search for peace by Jordan and the Arabs is still clashing with Israel's intransigent stand, which rejects every international initiative, including the Reagan plan which, as his majesty said at the time of its declaration, represented a big hope to overcome the Israeli obstacles on the path of peace.

AD-DUSTUR says: It is indeed unfortunate that matters have not stopped at Israel's rejection of the Reagan plan. Israel's intransigence on the one hand and U.S. retreat from its commitments to peace on the other have placed new obstacles on the path. The latest of these was the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance, which has created a new threat to the area and resulted in more tension between the superpowers. King Husayn did not forget to point out the Jordan's commitment to peace is also an Arab and Palestinian commitment, and that without the participation of all the partities concerned, including the USSR and the PLO, toward this objective, peace will not be achieved and this area will not enjoy peace or stability.

AD-DUSTUR adds: Inasmuch as this commitment constitutes one of the principles of the firm Jordanian policy, the attempt to remove certain elements, whose participation constitutes a basis for the success of the peace efforts, is considered a hindrance and frustration to the Jordanian role. This shows the stupidity of Israeli attempts to ignore these basic facts, and the futility of the calls on Jordan from here and there to forego its firm principled commitments and participate in the search for an imaginary peace outside its own conditions and convictions, which in fact are the conditions and convictions for the Arab nation and the whole of the international community.

AD-DUSTUR concludes: The key point in King Husayn's frank and courageous statement before the world public last night is that Jordan has been and is still ready to participate in the creation of just peace on the basis of UN Resolution 242 when all the parties concerned provide the chance for its success. but when Israel rejects peace initiatives and when the United States allies itself with Israel in its aggressive policy against the Palestinian people and the Arab peoples, then the world must not address its peace calls to Jordan, but to the United States and Israel.

King Leaves For Paris on Private Visit

JN121231 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Amman —His Majesty King Husayn left Amman this morning for Paris on a private visit to France lasting several days during which he will hold talks with French President Francois Mitterrand on the latest developments in the region and bilateral relations between the two countries. His majesty will also address the European Parliament in Strasburg.

His majesty was seen off on leaving the homeland by Prince Muhammad, Crown Prince Hasan, Prime minister Mudar Badran, the presidents of the Senate and the National Consultative Council, the court minister, the chief chamberlain, the ministers, the chief of staff of the Armed Forces, senior state and military officials, and the French and British ambassadors in Amman.

Crown Prince Hasan took the constitutional oath before His Majesty King Husayn and in the presence of the cabinet ministers as regent during the king's absence from the homeland. His majesty is accompanied on this visit by Ahmad al-Lawzi, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; and Marwan al-Qasim, minister of foreign affairs.

On passing through the Egyptian air space, His Majesty King Husayn sent the following message to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak: While passing through the air space of your fraternal country, I am pleased to send to Your Excellency my sincerest feelings of fraternity and love and best wishes and greetings. I pray to Almighty God to guide your steps and grant success to your blessed efforts in the service of our nation's common objectives and for achieving our dear Egyptian people's aspirations of might, progress, and prosperity. Your brother, Husayn ibn Talal.

Prince Hasan Contacts Kuwaitis About Bombings

JN121459 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Amman, 12 Dec (PETRA) — His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, held a telephone contact at noon today with His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, during which he expressed his regret about the explosions this morning to which

some establishments in the Kuwaiti capital were exposed. His highness also asked about the conditions of the injured and expressed to them his wishes for a quick recovery.

The Kuwaiti heir apparent thanked Prince Hasan on behalf of the Kuwaiti government and in the name of the Kuwaiti people for this brotherly initiative.

AR-RA'Y Comments on Premier's 11 Dec Statement

JN121223 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 12 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "A Message Which We Hope Will Be Understood," *AR-RA'Y* says: In his statement yesterday before the National Consultative Council, the prime minister emphasized the gravity of the strategic alliance between the United States and the Zionist enemy. This means, he said, that the United States has moved from the position of a third party to that of the second party. The picture now, after the strategic alliance has gone into effect, indicates that the United States and Israel stand on one side while the Arabs stand on the other. This clearly means that the mediation role, which Washington has played in the past, is now clear, and is in fact, over.

AR-RA'Y says: The prime minister has affirmed that any talk about peace in the Middle East must stem from the fact that all the parties concerned, including the USSR, must participate in the creation of peace, and that any attempt in the search for just and comprehensive peace must begin from at the beginning, which the prime minister has defined as the resolutions issued by the UN Security Council and the General Assembly. If the current U.S. Administration insists on acting unilaterally in the search for this solution and in fact persists on this despite its actual transfer to the Zionist camp, what must be clear is that this persistence will continue to be faced with two facts which are well known to the Arabs: The first is that Washington is not serious in its search for real, just and comprehensive peace in the region. Proof of this is its alliance with Zionist aggression, invasion, and expansion. The second is that Arab confidence in the United States has been stunned by U.S. overt and covert intentions. Therefore, the Arabs cannot accept a mediator who shares the enemy's desire to humiliate the Arabs, plunder tehir resources, and expand at the expense of their homeland.

AR-RA'Y concludes: The prime minister pointed out one significant point when he said that, the wager on the assumption that Arab reaction to the strategic alliance would soon die down is wrong. This alliance, the prime minister affirmed, will cause a strong and continuous reaction throughout the Arab world, because the Arabs know now that their conflict against the Zionist enemy is also a conflict against all those who back it in complete defiance of Arab feelings and with full contempt to this nation's aspirations and right to a noble life over all its land.

Continued Reportage on GDR Delegation Visit

Badran Receives Beil 12 Dec

JN121246 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran today received at his office at the Prime Ministry the GDR state secretary for foreign trade. During the meeting, which was attended by Industry and Trade Minister Walid 'Asfur and the GDR nonresident ambassador to Jordan, discussions dealt with bilateral relations between the two countries.

Prince Hasan Receives Beil 12 Dec

JN121812 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received the GDR state secretary for foreign trade in the Royal Hashemite Court this evening. The GDR official conveyed to his highness the chairman of the GDR Council of Minister's greetings to His Majesty King Husayn and his highness.

During he meeting, they discussed the existing economic and commercial relations between the two friendly countries and the possibility of expanding and promoting the scope of cooperation in all fields, especially in the fields of building joint industries, vocational training, and the exchange of expertise. The GDR guest expressed his country's appreciation for Jordan under His Majesty King Husayn and praised the king's just struggle and his Arab and international positions.

The minister of industry and trade and the GER ambassador to Jordan attended the meeting.

Economic Cooperation Agreement Signed

JN121946 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Jordan and the GDR today signed an economic and technical cooperation agreement. Walid 'Asfur, minister of industry and trade, signed the agreement for the Jordanian Government while Dr Gerhard Beil, GDR state secretary for foreign trade, signed for the GDR Government. The agreement stipulates the developments and promotion of commercial exchange between the two countries, the achievement of an even-handed trade balance, and the strengthening of cooperation between them, especially in the fields of industry, mining, irrigation, construction, transport, and agriculture.

The two sides also signed joint minutes of the talks that Dr Beil held with 'Asfur and a number of Jordanian officials on promoting and developing economic, commercial, and technical relations between the two countries within the framework of the bilateral economic and commercial agreement.

Cyrus Vance Condemns Israel's Settlement Policy
JN101912 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] Amman, 10 Dec (PETRA) — Former U.S. Secretary of state Cyrus Vance has denounced the strategic alliance between Israel and the United States and said that this alliance would affect Arab-U.S. relations. In an exclusive statement to PETRA, he stressed the need to resume the peace process in the region with a special concentration on the Palestine question, which is considered as the most important and basic issue in the Middle East region. He also pointed to the need to find a solution to the future of the occupied West Bank and Gaza. He also condemned Israel's continued policy of establishing settlements in the West Bank and Gaza, describing this policy as an illegitimate action that constitutes an obstacle on the way to peace. He added that Israel's continued establishment of settlements is considered a formula for continued annexation of the West Bank and Gaza, a fact that constitutes a great danger to the peace process and undermines Security Council Resolution No 242, which is considered as a basis for the progress that was made toward peace in the past.

Cyrus Vance also called for giving momentum to the peace process, asserting the need to depend on the said resolution in finding a solution to the Middle East crisis. He also called for finding a solution to the Lebanese crisis, pointing out that the Lebanese people have been living a tragic life for a long time, and said: The concern about Lebanon should not divert our attention from the principal issue that is represented by the Palestine question, affirming that the two issues are strongly linked. At the end of his statement, he expressed his pleasure at meeting His Majesty King Husayn, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, and ranking officials.

Vance left Amman today after a 2-day private visit to Jordan, during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, and a number of Jordanian personalities.

JORDAN TIMES Questions U.S.-Israeli Alliance
JN121613 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Dec 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Red Herrings Won't Work"]

[Text] The Reagan administration, in deciding to use air power against Syrian positions in Lebanon last week, may have indeed been seeking to send a signal to the Syrians that they would risk increased American and Israeli military pressure if they refused to negotiate a withdrawal from Lebanon. But, even then, is the threat of using force all that the Americans have got left in their policy for Lebanon and the Middle East? Do they not have a credible alternative to violence, whether in self- defence as they say or otherwise, for pursuing their political goals in this part of the world? And what does it really take to convince the U.S. Administration not to chase its losses, any further?

By taking a close look at events, and Americans behaviour, leading to the conclusion of Israeli Premier Shamir's talks with President Reagan in Washington late last month, and after, Washington could not be aiming at only short-term gains from its increased military and political co-operation with Israel. Its conduct suggests not only forcefulness in dealing with the Syrians and the Soviets in Lebanon. It is basically embarking, intentionally or unwittingly, on a dangerous course that could never win the Middle East for America.

Put in simple terms, the U.S., by forging its unholy alliance with the Israelis in the past two weeks, has in effect wanted to push its moderate Arab friends right into the confrontation line with the Soviets and the Arab radicals, reserving for itself and Israel two ring-side seats to see what happens. If the Arab moderates crumbled, there would still be the two strategic allies, the U.S. and Israel, to guard the big base at Palestine, all Israeli-administered and fortified with American weaponry and might to the hilt, according to our own understanding of this new American policy trend for the Middle East.

This strategy was apparently put to the test when the U.S. fighters of the Sixth Fleet were ordered to bomb the Syrian positions in Lebanon eight days ago. But the exercise does not seem to have worked. Washington may now try once or twice more. But again, we are sure, it could not possibly work.

The Arab moderates, Jordan at the top, know that the U.S. has less than one chance in a million of succeeding to convince us to fight its administration's avowed battle in this region. Here we are, having our own problems with the Israelis who are occupying our land and subjugating its inhabitants — and the Americans want us to believe that "Russia" is the enemy. Well, the Soviets may be Reagan's arch-rivals for whatever he chooses to name, but, as far as we are concerned, Israel and its practices against our people remain the Arabs' biggest worry.

The Arab moderates thus have only one, loud and clear, message to send to the U.S.: Rather than crumble to the Arab radicals and Soviets, we prefer to tell what is terribly wrong with you, Americans.

Arabs Must Take Stand on West Bank Resettlement
JN111932 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Israeli plan to resettle the refugees who are in the camps on the occupied West Bank has entered its final stages. Israeli radio has cited Minister Without Portfolio Mordekhay Ben Porat, the author of the plan, as saying that the resettlement costs will reach about $1.5 billion. According to the Israeli radio, certain foreign countries are expected to guarantee the funds.

If we take into consideration the visit to Washington by Binyamin Ben-Eli'Ezer, the coordinator of the occupied Arab territories' affairs, to discuss with U.S. Administration officials the question of improving conditions in the occupied West Bank, then we can say that foremost among the foreign countries contributing to the refugees' resettlement will be the United States, which is in a better position to pay — especially after signing the strategic cooperation agreement with Israel.

Observers note that the new plot is part of Israel's aggressive plans to liquidate the Palestine question. It seems Israel has found it opportune to carry out its plan to liquidate the refugee question, which has been a political issue for the Arabs and the world for more than 35 years. According to Ben Porat's estimations, Israel should be able to carry out its plan in 1 year or 18 months at the most. Although the Palestinian refugees are objecting to this Zionist plan and are resisting it within their limited powers and resources, the Israeli Government will agree to a resettlement plan in the end.

If Ben Porat's plan seeks to end the refugee question by uprooting these people and resettling them according to Israeli specifications, Israel's actual plans go beyond solving the refugee problem. Their objective is Jewish settlement in the densely populated occupied Arab cities. The crimes that the occupation authorities are commiting in occupied Nabulus and the crimes that they have committed in occupied Arab Jerusalem, Hebron, and other Arab cities are also part of the general Zionist plan to empty the Arab land of its rightful owners, using forms of pressure and terrorism, until the whole of Palestine becomes Jewish in land and people.

The changes that Israel is forcibly carrying out in the occupied Arab territories each day call on the Arab states to take countermeasures compatible with the savage Zionist onslaught to carve up the land and displace the Palestinian citizens. Jordan, which is performing its duty — according to its abilities — in supporting and assisting the kinfolk in the occupied Arab territories, finds itself dutybound to warn and alert the Arab world that our limited resources in supporting our kinfolk in the occupied West Bank will not be a real obstacle to the Zionist Judaization plans unless Jordan is backed by a sincere and courageous Arab stand ot support and assist the Palestinian people int he occupied territory.

The Palestinian people, whoc have resisted the plans of the Zionist occupation authorities since 1967, deserve from the Arabs a stand that goes beyond rhetorical speeches and statements of denunciation and condemnation. The heavy price they are paying each day to preserve the Arabism of the land must not be wasted if the Arab world still thinks even today about something called the Palestine question. We in this Arab country have given and will continue to give all we can to the Palestinian people, so that Palestine will remain vivid in the minds and so the issue of the land and the people will remain our main preoccupation — because it is our destiny.

Egyptian Minister Reportedly To Visit Jordan

JN110827 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B IN Arabic 11 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] Cairo — *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* — Dr Mustafa as-Sa'id, Egyptian minister of economy and foreign trade, will arrive in Amman next Friday for talks with Jordanian officials on strengthening trade relations between Egypt and Jordan.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B has learned that Dr Mustafa as-Sa'id will be bringing a message to His Majesty King Husayn from President Husni Mubarak.

Royal Decree Approves 1984 State Budget

JN121248 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] A royal decree was issued today approving the law for the 1984 state budget. The cabinet had held a special meeting this morning, under Prime Minister Mudar Badran, during which it endorsed the state budget law in its final text as approved by the National Consultative Council yesterday.

VOL Says 3 British Soldiers Held by Amal
NC121522 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1517 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Our security affairs correspondent has said that a British patrol mistakenly entered the Harat Hurayk area [in Beirut] at around 1700 today. The patrol was immediately encircled by Amal members, who captured three British soldiers.

Security Committee Fails To Meet 12 Dec
NC121254 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] The Security Arrangements Committee entrusted with the task of stabilizing the cease-fire has not yet met. All efforts that have been made to establish contact with the Amal Movement representative in order to reach agreement on a date for the committee meeting have failed for the second day in a row. The committee was scheduled to discuss the comprehensive security plan for Beirut, the southern suburbs, and the airport, as well as the question of the reopening of the airport and the schools. It is known that Amal Movement representative Dr Ayyub Humayyid has been boycotting the committee meetings for the past 6 days as a protest against incidents of kidnapping and shelling, although there is agreement inside the committee that such incidents should not constitute an obstacle for its meeting.

Soviets Helping Syria Install SS-21 Missiles
NC130608 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] The mountain experienced relative calm last night. However, there has been an influx of military materiel to reinforce the Syrian defensive capabilities there. The Voice of Lebanon has learned that Syria, assisted by Soviet experts, has installed SS-21 missiles in the area between Dahr al-Baydar and Kafr Silwan during the past hours. It has been reported that the U.S. warships have retreated from the Lebanese shores as a precautionary measure following the discovery of these missiles.

TISHRIN Cited: U.S. Forces 'Possible Target'
NC130627 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] In today's edition, the Damascus paper *TISHRIN* asserts that the U.S. and NATO forces in Lebanon and the Mediterranean constitute a possible target if Syria comes under a new attack.

Israeli Forces Carry Out Raids in Sidon
NC130927 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Excerpt] A new operation against the Israeli forces took place a short while ago. An unknown person this morning threw a hand grenade at an Israeli patrol in An-Najmah Square in Sidon, but it did not explode. The Israeli forces immediately sealed off all the main roads leading to Riyad as-Sulh Street and lined up the citizens and questioned many of them. They also cordoned off the area. Scores of trucks carrying hundreds of Israeli soldiers have been seen for the first time since the Israeli invasion in June 1982 roaming the An-Najmah Square.

Earlier this morning, the Israeli forces carried out raids in Harat Sayda in Sidon and arrested Ahmad al-Jubayli and Muhammad Qasim 'Izz ad-Din. The residents of Harat Sayda issued a statement in which they called on the Israeli forces to release the detainees. The statement also said that the residents expect the detainees to be released before tomorrow morning, otherwise they will declare a strike, as a first step, then they will declare an open strike and stage a sit-in.

French Paratrooper Killed in Corniche al-Mazra'ah
NC130926 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Intermittent clashes are now raging in the Al-Kharrub region, and shells are falling on Al-Jiyah and Harat B'asir. Meanwhile, the Lebanese Army positions in Khaldah are now being subjected to antitank fire from the Junblatt positions.

In another development, a French paratrooper was killed today when his patrol came under gunfire in Corniche al-Mazra'ah. The perpetrators managed to escape.

Salim Briefs Al-Jumayyil, Al-Wazzan on Talks
NC121857 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Excerpts] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil — on the eve of his departure on a state visit to Britain — held a meeting with Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan to assess developments and to prepare the file for the talks. [Foreign and Expatriates Affairs] Minister Salim arrived [back in Beirut] in the afternoon and he joined the conferees. Minister Salim briefed President al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister al-Wazzan on the results of his talks with the Syrian and Saudi officials in connection with the situation in Lebanon and with the subject of the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanese territory. The briefing was done in the presence of the president's adviser for national affairs, Dr Wadi' Haddad.

Following the deliberations, it was decided to advance the Cabinet's weekly session from next Wednesday to tomorrow, Tuesday, to consider basic policy matters prior to President al-Jumayyil's departure to London, now that Minister Salim has made a comprehensive and full review of the minutes of the talks that he held in Damascus and Riyadh. Furthermore, a comprehensive assessment of these talks was made in such a way that several stances have crystallized while the plan for the coming moves is being formulated.

President al-Jumayyil had earlier today received the French Foreign Ministry's general secretary, Mr Francis Guttman, who arrived in Beirut this morning. The president discussed developments with Mr Guttman, with Prime Minister al-Wazzan and

French Ambassador to Lebanon Mr Fernand Wibeaux in attendance. No information has become available about the purpose behind the French emissary's visit to Beirut. However, French Embassy sources have suggested the visit was connected with deliberations on the situation.

At the general debate session that was resumed today, a number of deputies raised the question of the positive statements that were made by Minister Salim in the wake of the talks that he held in Damascus with Syrian Foreign Minister Mr 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. The deputies asked that the chamber of deputies be informed about the results [of the Salim Damascus talks] and about the things on which agreement was reached. Within this context, speeches were made by Deputies ad-Dahir, ad-Dawayhi, as-Sabbah, al-Mar'ibi, and al-'Ali.

In responding to the deputies, Prime Minister al-Wazzan said: In fact, in case it had been impossible for the foreign minister to arrive in Lebanon yesterday, I would then have liked to contact the speaker in the hope that we could postpone the session. However, I did not want to take this step and ask for the postponement, until I was certain the foreign minister would not arrive. I am reassured that Minister Salim will inevitably arrive while this session is still in progress. However, all these things do not prevent us from continuing with this discussion, particularly so far as those who had heard his excellency in the previous session are concerned.

If I can say anything about the atmosphere [of the Damascus talks] then I can say that it is a positive atmosphere. You might say that this statement (?stems) from generalities. However, I affirm to you that, at this moment, we have been unable to hear the possible [as heard] details, except those given by the military committee. Yesterday, I heard the report that was forwarded by the military committee on the discussions that had been held in Damascus.

Through a perusal of the arrangements on which agreement has been reached, I have determined that these arrangements are indeed pursuing a positive path. We also hope that this matter will be translated into practical measures.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan Condemns Kuwait Bombings

NC122142 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan repudiated the bombings that took place in Kuwait. He has emphasized that stopping these incidents is an international responsibility, adding that it is impermissible to show indifference to this responsibility or to delay facing up to it. Prime Minister al-Wazzan said that he was pained by these attacks. He said: In Lebanon we have repeatedly warned that, if the fire continues to be fanned, then this fire will spread and afflict the whole area. Again we call the world's attention to this fact. It is imperative to embark on serious action to extinguish the fire in Lebanon, to place things in their legitimate perspective, to end the Israeli occupation, and also to end the Palestinian people's tragedy and to respond to their legitimate rights. Prime Minister al-Wazzan added: This is an overall international responsibility; it is impermissible to show indifference to this responsibility, or to delay facing up to it. Our hearts are with cherished Kuwait. May God preserve Kuwait, its amir, and its fraternal people.

PSP Source on Dayr al-Qamar Evacuation

JN121804 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1625 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus — A source close to Walid Junblatt, Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader, has announced that the evacuation of displaced persons from Dayr al-Qamar will begin Wednesday. Press sources quoted the source as saying that the Italian contingent within the Multinational Force will supervise the evacuation of Phalangist militias from the village within 24 hours, and that the International Red Cross will supervise the evacuation of civilians on condition that this must be completed within 5 days.

Reportage on Al-Asad's Health, Activities

'Spokesman' Describes Health as 'Good'

JN121514 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] A spokesman for the Syrian presidency emphasized in Damascus this afternoon that President Hafiz al-Asad's health is good. He described everything that has been reported about the formation of a collective leadership in Damascus as baseless and as sheer, tendentious rumors and lies.

Al-Asad, Fahd Exchange Views

JN121844 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz telephoned President Hafiz al-Asad today and exchanged views with him on the situation in the Arab region.

During this telephone call, the president thanked his brother King Fahd for his earlier inquiries about his health and his expressions of best wishes.

Al-Asad Receives Party Official

JN122138 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] This evening, President Hafiz al-Asad received Comrade Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, assistant regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. The president was briefed on a number of party issues, and asked Mashariqah to deliver a speech on his behalf during tomorrow's mammoth popular march in Damascus. The president also asked Mashariqah to convey his heartfelt and warm greetings both to the masses taking part in that march, and to all our people in general.

Al-Kasm, Council 'Review' U.S.-Israeli Agreement

JN121450 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] At 1100 today, the Syrian Council of Ministers held a special session under Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm.

The Council reviewed the strategic agreement recently concluded between the United States and Israel. Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm spoke about the dimensions of this agreement and the threat it poses to the existence and security of Syria and the entire Arab nation.

The prime minister said that through its strategic agreement with Israel, the United States has placed its entire potential and capability — particularly its military power — at the disposal of the Israeli enemy. This, in turn, will allow it to achieve its objectives of aggression, expansion, and occupation of Arab land.

The prime minister pointed out that this serious U.S. step has not only confirmed the well-known fact that the United States is biased toward Israel, but has also made the United States a direct partner in the achievement of Israel's designs of expansion and of their joint plans for hegemony over the Arab homeland. Al-Kasm added that this strategic agreement seeks to bring about a direct U.S. military presence in the Arab region that will threaten the Arabs' security and existence.

The prime minister stressed that Syria will never change its stand, and will continue to confront the schemes of imperialism and Zionism and reject the agreement of submission signed on 17 May 1983. He also reaffirmed Syria's determination, under President Hafiz al-Asad, to confront any act of aggression relying both on its own strength and on the support of the Arab masses and their friends in the Islamic countries, the Nonaligned Movement, the socialist bloc, and all those struggling for freedom, justice, and peace in the world.

Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm concluded by noting: Syria will make all efforts neccessary to defend its land and people and to protect the Arab nation and land. He further declared that it will use all means and methods capable of achieving this.

Ba'th Command Issues Memorandum on U.S. Plans

JN121509 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1325 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, 12 Dec (SANA) — The National Command of the Syrian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party has declared that the U.S.-Israeli act of aggression against Syrian Arab forces in Lebanon is a prelude to a larger aggression against steadfast Syria. In a memorandum to friendly and fraternal Arab parties and political forces, the command added that this campaign of aggression has three objectives: to foil any effort to achieve a national accord in Lebanon, to aggravate the situation, and to impose the U.S.-Israeli formula for a settlement on the Lebanese people. The memorandum also pointed out that this act of aggression followed the return of the terrorist Yitzhaq Shamir — the Zionist prime minister — from the United States; the announcement of the U.S.-Israeli strategic agreement; and a series of statements by U.S. and Israeli officials confirming their aggressive intentions toward Syria.

The memorandum noted that the U.S. attack on Syrian forces in Lebanon coincides with recent French and Israeli air raids on the positions of Lebanese nationalist forces. This fact indicates that these parties have coordinated their efforts to remove those obstacles which hamper the implementation of their aggressive plans in Lebanon and the region.

The memorandum also described the grave U.S. military escalation of the situation as part of the aggressive U.S. policy in the world, a policy which threatens the destiny of mankind and pushes the international situation in the direction of heightened tension and danger. It called for the withdrawal of the Zionist occupation forces, the U.S. forces, and the NATO forces which are colluding with them from Lebanon, and the restoration of Lebanon's sovereignty and independence. An appeal was also made for the preservation of its unity, territory, and people.

The memorandum called for a large-scale international campaign of solidarity with the struggle being waged by Syria, the

Lebanese and Palestinian nationalist forces, and the Arab progressive forces in general against U.S. threats and U.S. imperialist military interference in the region. It recommended that a campaign be launched firmly denouncing and condemning U.S.-Zionist aggression against Syria, and that the dangerous dimensions of this aggression, which threaten the peace and security of the world, be exposed.

PAP Official Praises 'Confrontationist Front'

JN121606 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1550 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, 12 Dec (SANA) — Janusz Roszkowski, managing director of the POLISH PRESS AGENCY [PAP], declared that Syria has recently become the focus of attention in light of its leading position in the Middle Eastern situation and its political weight in the Arab region. During the talks he and his delegation held here today with Sabir Falhut, doyen of Syrian journalists and director general of the SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY [SANA], Roszkowski explained that Syria forms a confrontationist front against imperialism and noted that Syria, Poland, and all the struggling peoples face a common enemy: U.S. imperialism, world Zionism, and reaction.

The guest delegation arrived in Damascus this morning on a visit to Syria during which a cooperation agreement will be signed between SANA and PAP. The visitors will meet with a number of officials from the news media, and will also have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the various aspects of cultural and economic development in Syria.

U.S., NATO Forces Described as 'Possible Targets'

JN121050 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Press review]

[Text] In his latest statements, President Reagan dealt with the Lebanese question and the need, as he put it, to achieve peace in that tormented country. President Reagan touched upon several points in his remarks. In today's issue, *AL-BA'TH* comments on these statements, saying: President Reagan highlighted a number of points, stressed diplomatic efforts, affirmed the need to protect the U.S. Marines, and declared that he considered the 17 May [Israeli-Lebanese] agreement to be the basis for a U.S. peace. Thus, the U.S. President said nothing new. What he did was provide clear proof of his commitment to serve both the wishes and expansionist plans of the Zionists in the region.

Nevertheless, we may ask: Why has Reagan stressed diplomacy, and why has he decided to play the diplomatic card in the Middle East at this particular time? The paper adds: What essentially comes to mind, based on realistic considerations, is that — having received a painful blow at the hands of our brave forces in Lebanon and at the hands of the Lebanese national resistance when U.S. planes were downed and when a number of U.S. Marines were killed — Reagan is now attempting to contain the results of the U.S. raids, which generated a wave of Arab and world condemnation and strong opposition within the United States itself. The U.S. President would like to absorb world and U.S. anger toward his policy of force and recklessness, and toward his bias in favor of Zionism. He now fears the effect this anger may have on his reelection campaign. Hence, Reagan has begun to call for self-restraint and has tried to adopt the pose of a retreating man, while he is, in fact, preparing for a blitzkrieg-like military action that would bring him a new presidential term.

AL-BA'TH notes: We truly support self-restraint if this means that aggression will not be mounted against others. However, we oppose self-restraint if it means that we should submit to the current U.S.-style plans for a regional settlement. Our national and pan-Arab interests are above all other considerations and above the calls for surrender, including President Reagan's call for self-restraint. This call, which provides the basis for current U.S. diplomacy — as represented by Shultz, Bush, Vance, and Rumsfeld — is categorically rejected so long as the U.S. President continues to adhere to the 17 May agreement and to protect the Marines in Lebanon. This agreement and protection mean a U.S. insistence on transforming Lebanon into a NATO base. Relying on its own strength, that of the masses in our Arab nation, and our friends in the world, Syria will never accept this base on its doorstep.

The newspaper *TISHRIN* deals with this issue from another angle. In its "Behind the News" column, *TISHRIN* carries an article entitled "The U.S. Adventure" in which it declares: When the U.S. Administration openly announces that it is determined to preserve Israeli superiority in the Middle East power balance, it again affirms that it sides completely with the Zionist entity and that it has openly participated in the planning and implementation of repeated aggressions against the Arab nation — aggressions which in the past were carried out by the Zionist forces alone. The recent U.S. air raids are part of the new U.S. strategy that has been implemented since the Shamir-Arens visit to Washington.

TISHRIN adds: As the Americans implicated some of their European allies in the Camp David agreements, so they are again trying to implicate them in the Lebanese crisis. This may be a cause of concern to the Europeans, who have quite frankly pointed out, following the Syrian arms buildup, that continued U.S. acts of aggression against Syria constitute an adventure that could lead the world to a destructive war. In fact, the Europeans and others cannot deny Syria the right to defend itself if it is exposed to any new aggression. This makes all U.S. and NATO military forces in Lebanon and the Mediterranean possible targets, because they are targets hostile to Syria.

Concluding, *TISHRIN* says: In a statement on the anniversary of the Human Rights Declaration, the Syrian Foreign Ministry warned of the dangers posed by the recent Reagan-Shamir agreement. Syria, for its part, will exercise its legitimate right of self- defence, relying primarily on its own strength, and on the support of its allies and friends, led by the USSR, the Arabs' strategic ally.

Thus, the Syrian stand forms the basis of all stands in the region, which make a U.S. retreat a necessity, unless Reagan commits a rash error and pushes the world into an adventure, the consequences of which are very difficult to predict.

Decision for Defense Called 'Irrevocable'

JN121556 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: When the U.S. Administration sent the Marines to Lebanon under the cover of the Multinational Force, it announced that they would be performing a temporary peace mission there. Doubts about the truth of this mission began to be raised when the Multinational Force, not long after arriving, withdrew to allow the Zionist forces of invasion to enter Beirut, which they had been unable to do for more than 2 months and 10 days, and to organize the Sabra and Shatila massacres.

Doubts about the mission of the U.S. forces in Lebanon increased when U.S. promises to have the Zionist forces of invasion withdraw from Lebanon according to a specific timetable began to fall one after another like autumn leaves — without a single Israeli soldier withdrawing from Lebanese territory. Doubts about the real objective of the U.S. forces' mission in Lebanon also increased when U.S. pressure was not directed toward Israel, the aggressor and the invader, but to the Lebanese regime, forcing it to conclude an agreement that harms Lebanon's sovereignty, independence, and security, and makes its territory, airspace, and jurisdictional waters an extension of the Israeli security zone.

Although the Lebanese regime signed the agreement, Israel did not withdraw from Lebanon. It carried out only a partial withdrawal from Ash-Shuf and 'Alayh to fan the fires of an internal dispute that would help it cover up for its occupation of Lebanon and its flouting of UN Security Council resolutions.

The series of events fostered by U.S. moves and tactics in Lebanon, as well as overt U.S. demands, have all proven that the Israeli invasion of Lebanon not only took place in accordance with a U.S. green light, but on the basis of a U.S. demand rooted in the desire to exploit the invasion for the purposes of the overall U.S. strategy in the region, which is hostile to the legitimate interests of the Arab nation.

A few days ago, the Reagan-Shamir agreement crowned the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. It served as a reward for the invaders for having carried out their operation. The unprecedented U.S. loans and grants have also come as an encouragement and an incitement to the Israeli rulers to launch new aggressive operations in the region to serve the objectives of the U.S. Administration. All the signs in Washington, Tel Aviv, and other capitals, as well as the hints contained in U.S. and Israeli statements, indicate that Syria, and its forces in Lebanon, are the target of this latest U.S.-Israeli conspiracy.

The unsuccessful U.S. raid on Syrian positions in Lebanon was an act which reflected the trend adopted by the U.S. Administration in the region. We must say that there are signs which give the impression that the United States and Israel are searching for excuses, and may perhaps fabricate incidents to justify why they are moving to the stage of implementing their aggressive schemes and using force.

We must remind you at this point that the Israeli rulers exploited the assassination attempt against the Israeli ambassador in London. They took advantage of that incident to conduct the invasion of Lebanon, which had been prepared and decided upon a long time ago. That is why the Arabs and all those concerned about peace and justice in the world must realize the gravity behind the direction of U.S. policy in the Middle East and the ominous consequences that the continuation of this trend may bring about.

It is evident that the Americans may fan the fire through one of their decisions. There are no guarantees, however, as to how far and for how long this fire will rage. Nor can anyone predict how much damage it will cause to all parties.

All those concerned about peace and justice in the world must not remain idle in the face of those who advocate the aggravation of tension and the use of force in issues of world peace and security.

With regard to Syria, it has become very clear that our decision to defend ourselves is irrevocable, a step that cannot be retracted no matter what the cost. Syria's readiness to engage in dialogue and reach an understanding is also a readiness based on a deeply-rooted commitment to principled stands, Arab rights, and the total rejection of all forms of pressure, threats, and attempts to impose hegemony.

Dear listeners: Syria answers logic with logic and holds discussions on the basis of the provisions of the UN Charter, international law, and the peoples' right to self-determination. This is both the only language which Syria understands and the only one which it uses in the face of the language of threats. This latter language is unacceptable, and will meet only a deaf ear in Syria, because Syria has chosen to defend itself and to wage a battle for the sake of the Arab nation.

This must be clearly understood by the rulers in Washington and their envoys to the region.

Commentary on Need 'To Redress Balance'

JN111546 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, when our valiant Armed Forces confronted the U.S. and Israeli aggressors, the developments which followed confirmed that those aggressors will not abandon their objectives and schemes unless Syria reaffirms — through future battles — that any aggression against it will founder on the rock of its steadfastness. It must prove that such aggression will be harmful to those who will carry it out, and will bring them failure, disappointment, and defeat. The motives of aggression are not confined to confirming power, flexing muscles, and retreating back to where aggression begins, because aggression for them is a means, and not an end. The end is more serious than the current situation shows.

If the current arena of conflict is confined to Lebanon, then the arena of the coming conflict will include the entire Arab region,

because the aggressors' objective is to impose their control over the entire region, subjugate it, impose their hegemony, and direct our nation in accordance with their objectives, hostile designs, and desires. The decreasing dependence on military force that those aggressors now demonstrate is only a superficial guise that conceals new hostile designs. It is a tactical retreat dictated by circumstances; it is neither a strategic retreat nor a relinquishment of a policy that is a proven failure. It is a truce between two battles with the objective of taking a breather and regrouping forces in order to prepare for a coming round that will be fiercer and more violent than the previous one.

In light of this, Syria has only but one choice — namely, to develop its defensive capability and strengthen its Armed Forces in accordance with the requirements of the battle imposed upon it. Needless to say this is no secret. This is so because self-defense is a legitimate right which cannot be ignored. It is a national and pan-Arab duty, and a heavy responsibility that must be assumed with all resoluteness and determination — without hesitation, negligence, or deficiencies.

Syria has warned that the implementation of what was brought about by the strategic alliance between the United States and Israel requires Syria to redress the balance. This warning is not only a declaration of intent, but a confirmation of a step imposed by the national and pan-Arab duty. If the aggressors believe that Syria will hesitate to carry out this step, then they are deluded and are hoping for a great deal. Syria, as has been repeated more than once, has been and will continue to be impregnable. Syria will never be an easy prey. Syria receives strength from its army and its people. It is strong because the masses rally around it, and because the forces of justice, liberation, and peace support it. Syria has inexhaustible resources and broad relations in the political and military fields. Will the aggressors realize this? Will they consider the seriousness of continuing to plan for an aggression against it?

Syria's open announcement that it will redress the balance should the aggressors repeat their attempts against it is a clear message — one that should be carefully read by those aggressors. Otherwise, they must assume the responsibility for the consequences of their aggression.

Radio Calls for Arab 'Unified Course'

JN092152 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] Before the U.S. raid against Syrian positions in Lebanon, the U.S. media, as well as a number of statements made in Washington and some other Western capitals, served to spread the rumor that the U.S. Administration has decided not to retaliate for the attack on the U.S. Marine command post in Lebanon. This was said to stem from its desire to behave as a responsible superpower. The rumors also said that Israel would be deputized to retaliate, particularly after the attack on the Israeli governor's command in Tyre. All this was in accord with the proverb: He who has a cook must not burn his fingers.

As his aides said, and contrary to the rumors, President Reagan gave instructions to attack Syrian positions on the pretext that U.S. planes were intercepted by Syrian fire. This pretext is very weak.

It seems that President Reagan expected the Syrian forces to set off fireworks to celebrate the appearance of U.S. planes over their positions or to merely photograph them. Following the indignant reaction to this U.S. act of aggression — which endangers both the Arab region and the world's peace and security — the U.S. Administration has begun its attempts to lessen the tension generated by Arab and international reaction. In this effort, it is making use of propaganda and political campaigns to absorb the indignation and change the facts so as to justify its deed and prove that its aggression against the Syrian forces was an act of self-defense. On this basis, we address the so-called moderate Arab countries, which the United States wants to convince that its raid was not related to the U.S.-Israeli strategic agreements, and that the agreement will not endanger U.S. relations with its friends in the Arab world. It would like to have them believe that — in the words of Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state — the agreement is in harmony with the strong relations between the United States and the moderate Arab countries. This is an attempt to deceive, misguide, and remove the fears of some Arabs who were embarrassed after the signing of the U.S.-Israeli agreement. Despite all the U.S. attempts to give the agreement a meaning different from its real one, the fact remains that the United States is incapable of making the majority of Arabs believe U.S. claims that the U.S.-Israeli agreement does not constitute a danger to all Arabs. The agreement needs no further explanation. The U.S. raid on Syrian positions constitutes a clear explanation of this agreement. The Israelis described this agreement as providing for complete U.S.-Israeli cooperation in the military, political, and economic spheres. This is the way the Arabs understood the agreement, in accord with what the U.S. and Israeli media have reported.

Syria is fully aware that, even though it is the target of U.S.-Israeli aggression, the danger threatens all Arabs. The ordinary Arab citizen is aware of U.S.-Israeli ambitions in the Arab world. Thus, mere talk is useless. The words of Arabs must not differ from their deeds. It is time for words to be translated into deeds. The Arab region, particularly after the U.S.-Israeli agreement, will be an arena for large-scale U.S.-Israeli aggression that will include even the so-called moderates. U.S. ambitions and dreams of hegemony are not confined to this or that Arab country. The Arabs must adopt a unified course of action in order to preserve the Arab nation and its interests. Should this not be done, the Arab homeland will become a zone for U.S.-Israeli interests. Then they will regret what they have done, but it will be too late.

Dialogue 'Best Method' To Settle Differences

JN101919 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, the premeditated hostile U.S. action against Syrian forces in Lebanon has created real concern in various political circles throughout the world, including some in the

United States, which condemned U.S. military involvement and called for the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Lebanon. UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has called on the parties concerned in Lebanon to exercise self-restraint, but the statements made by senior U.S. officials do not indicate that there is a tendency for self-restraint and wisdom. On the one hand, U.S. officials claim that their hostile military moves are legitimate acts of self-defense, while on the other they declare their intention to escalate the situation through talk of orders to have ships and planes conduct shelling operations under cover of responding to what U.S. forces in Lebanon are exposed to. The world press also speaks of Israeli-U.S. military coordination. In addition to this, U.S. officials claim that the dignity of their country was harmed due to the downing of three U.S. planes by the Syrian Armed Forces. They have also shown their wish — through various means — to have Syria appease the United States and show a desire for understanding with it. These U.S. stands are based on a big mistake that will lead to many successive and interrelated errors. The biggest mistake lies in the U.S. belief that it has special rights in the world and that it is allowed to violate both the UN Charter and the laws and norms which govern international relations, to provoke others, and to commit acts of aggression against them without considering that those others have the right to defend themselves in accordance with the law.

When the Americans place themselves above the law, the United Nations, and the rights of others, they commit a mistake that leads to successive mistakes which, in turn, could lead to a catstrophe, not only in the Middle East, but outside the region as well. No one can deny that the United States is a superpower, but being a superpower does not mean that others must submit to it, capitulate to its will and desires, and accept its aggression against them. Nor does it mean that there are no forces capable of confronting it. Some U.S. officials and U.S. media depict Syria in its confrontation with the United States as if it were a superpower equal to the United States. These statements are aimed at justifying hostile U.S. actions and the Israeli-U.S. conspiracies against the peace issue in the Middle East. Syria is not a superpower, but it does not intend to submit or capitulate to the superpower — the United States. Although Syria is not a superpower, it is determined to stand fast in the face of any superpower or any other force that attempts to attack it, undermine its rights, or harm its security and interests.

Syria has engaged in dialogue with the United States, and it still believes that dialogue is the best method for understanding and for resolving differences. When the United States prefers to hold dialogue through weapons, Syria must confront this dialogue, enter it with all the necessary qualifications, and provide itself with all the tools. The United States is a superpower, but it is not the only superpower in the world. This fact is well known to the United States and to Syria. When President Reagan's administration seeks strategic cooperation with Israel for the purpose of launching aggression against Syria, imposing hegemony over the Arabs, and turning Lebanon into an Israeli-U.S. base and protectorate, that is when Syria finds itself obligated to confront any new stand with new and proper steps. Among these steps will be some which the United States fears and seeks to avoid with all its power — sometimes with unsurpassed folly. Syria might conduct its dealings in a friendly way, but regarding basic issues, it does not deal that way, it does not retreat, and it has no fear of threats. When the United States enters a region thousands of kilometers from its own territory and carries out military actions under the pretext of defending vital U.S. interests, then the peoples of the region have the right to defend themselves and their security. When U.S. forces in Lebanon become the allies of the Israeli invaders and deviate from their declared task, then the pepoles of the region have the right to call for the withdrawal of U.S. and Israeli forces.

Intentions About 'Arafat Evacuation Not Disclosed

TA121033 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 12 Dec 83 pp 1, 11

[Report by Yosef Harif]

[Excerpt] Israel did not reveal to the United States if or how it will operate against Yasir 'Arafat's terrorist convoy if, contrary to Israel's position, the convoy is allowed to leave Tripoli under the aegis of the United Nations. A U.S. attempt to uncover Israel's intentions on this issue was made yesterday in a telephone talk between U.S. Charge d'Affaires Robert Flaten and Foreign Ministry Deputy Director General Hanan Bar-On.

Political observers in Jerusalem said that in their contacts with Israel, the Americans preferred to deal with the issue at a low level so as not to create the impression that the United States is protecting 'Arafat and the terrorists.

The appeal to Israel was not initiated by the United States but was a response to appeals made by Greece and Italy, two of the countries which are prepared to put ships at the disposal of 'Arafat and his followers to evacuate them from Tripoli.

It has emerged that Shamir's message to the UN Secretary General — that Israel objects to granting UN protection to the rescuing boats — deterred the Greek, Italian, and French governments. (For reasons of prestige, France did not appeal on its own to Israel on this matter).

Reports reaching Jerusalem yesterday created the impression that the countries willing to put their ships at the disposal of the terrorists are currently "reassessing" the entire subject.

The United States has told Israel that the departure of 'Arafat and his men from Tripoli "is good both to the United States and to Israel." However, Israel was not ready to change its position especially after the PLO, including 'Arafat's camp, assumed responsibility for the terrorist attack on the bus in Jerusalem last week.

Also, the U.S. argument — that by sponsoring the evacuation of the terrorists, the United Nations was solely led by humanitarian considerations and the well-being of the inhabitants of Tripoli — were rejected by Israel.

A senior official in Jerusalem described these arguments as "sheer nonsense." According to him, the area where 'Arafat and his men are staying is controlled by members of the "Muslim Brotherhood" who are known for their firm opposition to Syria and who have been fighting alongside 'Arafat. Peaceful Lebanese who are suffering because of 'Arafat's presence in their midst are not involved.

The talk between the U.S. charge d'affaires and the Foreign Ministry official created a "total blackout" and Mr Flaten could not conclude from it whether Israel would abstain from attacking the terrorists.

It has been learned from Western sources that 'Arafat sought Saudi Arabia's mediation offices to reach an agreement with Damascus over a new proposal that the terrorists would cross the Syrian lines in Lebanon and later proceed to Jordan.

Replying to a question, authoritative sources in Jerusalem said no appeal whatsoever had been submitted to Israel by senior officials in Washington. It was assessed in Jerusalem yesterday that the United States would limit itself to the appeal of the U.S. charge d'affaires in Tel Aviv and would thus have discharged its obligations to the Western countries that had asked it "to influence Israel."

Arens on Kuwait Explosions, 'Arafat Situation

TA121546 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] A short time ago, Defense Minister Moshe Arens indirectly commented on the chain of attacks in Kuwait. Appearing on ABC Television, the defense minister made a comparison between the Tripoli and Kuwait terrorists. Imagine to yourselves, Arens said, that the perpetrators of the attack in Kuwait were to be captured and then given aid by the United Nations and Western countries to leave there and continue terrorist activity elsewhere. 'Oded Granot reports from Washington:

[Begin recording] [Granot] The defense minister referred to the explosion at the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait as an example of 'Arafat's terrorist activity and as sufficient reason not to permit him to leave Tripoli.

[Arens — in English] So, I'd better remind you, because people tend to forget so quickly, that 'Arafat is one of the chief terrorists around the world. Here you just had another terrorist outrage in Kuwait against the U.S. Embassy there, and it seems incomprehensible, unbelievable, that the United Nations, that some Western powers, would now like to provide assistance to him so he and his terrorists can move out of Tripoli, with their arms, move to another place, so that they can engage in terrorism again.

[Granot] It is hard to conceive that the United Nations and Western countries will help one of the leaders of terrorism and help the terrorists leave with their arms to continue terrorist actions against Israel throughout the world, the defense minister said. He continued: We are making every effort to convince these elements not to help him. Further on, the defense minister said: Imagine to yourselves that the perpetrators of the explosion in the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait had been captured and afterward given aid by Western countries to save themselves and continue similar actions somewhere else. [Granot asks] Will Israel fire at the ships that are to rescue 'Arafat from Tripoli?

[Arens — in English] Well, I hope that we won't have to get to that point.

[Granot] The defense minister's answer was: Let us hope we will not have to reach that point. In the meantime, reports continue to arrive here about the explosion in Kuwait, attributed, according to the reports, to the Islamic Jihad Organization, which also claimed responsibility for the explosion at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut. Correspondents accompanying U.S. Secretary of State Shultz report that in that case, too, an Arab country was behind the explosion. It is being reported that the secretary

of state said the United States would continue, nevertheless, to work to achieve peace and stability in the Middle East. [end recording]

Arens, Eagleburger Discuss Tripoli Evacuation

TA130634 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Excerpts] These two issues [the evacuation of 'Arafat from Tripoli and yesterday's explosions in Kuwait] also came up in the meeting between Defense Minister Moshe Arens and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger in New York last night. The meeting dealt with the dispute between the United States and Israel over the affair of the evacuation of 'Arafat's men from Tripoli. Meanwhile, an Israeli-U.S. document of understanding is in the works in Washington which will stipulate the scope of U.S. aid to Israel in the next few years. Our correspondent Razi Barqay elaborates on these two issues:

[Begin Barqay recording] The defense minister sought support for the Israeli policy regarding the evacuation from Tripoli in the United States. However, it seems that the Americans regard the evacuation as a fait accompli and they do not plan to make efforts to withdraw the UN sponsorship. Last night, the State Department spokesman took pains to express reservations about the remarks made by Arens in a television interview that 'Arafat is responsible for the recent attacks in Kuwait.

The State Department spokesman hastened to state that the United States does not have any evidence that 'Arafat or the PLO were behind the attack in Kuwait. The differences of opinion on this issue with the United States persist. However, in another field there is almost total understanding. By the end of this week, a senior administration official — apparently at the ministerial level — will sign a document of understanding on behalf of the United States which will added as an appendix to the U.S. agreement to extend a military grant to Israel in 1985 in the amount of of $1.4 billion. As recalled, Israel asked for more, but the United States rejected the request. Thus was born the idea of this document which will state, on behalf of the U.S. Government, that aid to Israel in the next few years will be extended according to its security needs. Israeli officials in Washington say this means that all the comings and goings which had in the past characterized every request for dollars will come to an end in the next few years. [end recording]

Papers Denounce Rescue Efforts

TA110938 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Review of midday press editorials]

[Text] Both papers denounce the efforts of the United Nations and several West European countries to rescue Yasir 'Arafat and his men from Tripoli.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT writes that countries which at the time ignored the calls for help of the Jews who were trapped by the Nazis are now trying to rescue the greatest murderer since Hitler. The United Nations, and countries such as France and Greece, are putting warships at the disposal of a child murderer in order to protect him and his followers on so-called humanitarian principles.

MA'ARIV says that the United Nations has attested to its shamelessness through its resolution to protect Yasir 'Arafat, who takes pride in the murder of children. The international organization has thus hit rock bottom. We should not come to terms with the promise to grant guarentees to the organization that assumed responsibility for the attack in Jerusalem. The countries that will send ships to rescue 'Arafat must realize there is no guarantee for the safety of the ships. If the United Nations wants to protect an assassin it should not trust the victims to tolerate this. Yasir 'Arafat has been complaining that the Israeli Navy has imposed a blockade on Tripoli. Even if this is not true, that is the course Israel should take.

Further Press Comment

TA121015 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0430 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] *THE JERUSALEM POST* says that if 'Arafat is captured alive by Israel, he will prove to be a terrible nuisance, and if he turns into a dead martyr, he will become a symbol of Palestinian nationalism more than ever in the past. Despite the completely understandable aspiration to revenge the blood of the victims of the Jerusalem terrorist act, the claim that 'Arafat and his people should be allowed out of Tripoli has not lost its validity. However, the government has difficulty publicly accepting this and as a result it voices threats to the effect that it may adopt measures. According to the paper this is an ineffective public relations exercise intended for domestic consumption.

MA'ARIV on Jordanian Ties With 'Arafat

TA091137 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 9 Dec 83 p 3

[Report by Yosef Tzuri'el]

[Text] Jordan is delaying giving support to those who are prepared to serve as mayors in Hebron, Ramallah, Nabulus, and Al-Birah, claiming that it is interested in coordination with the Yasir 'Arafat-led group.

It was reported from Arab sources yesterday that this position indicates the current attitude of Jordanian authorities toward the regional residents. Under the circumstances created in Tripoli, it is more convenient for the Amman government to declare cooperation with Yasir 'Arafat on matters of appointments in the occupied territories just as on matters of economic aid. Information emanating from Amman indicates that Jordan is expecting a worsening of the rift in the PLO that will lead to strengthening the ties betewen the Jordanian Government and 'Arafat's group. Expression has already been given for this expectation in East Jerusalem and the occupied territories. As for the manifesto in which the fatal terrorist act against the Jerusalem bus was condemned, security elements believe that the signing of it was

made possible only since those in the territories today feel themselves less dependent on the PLO or Jordan.

Minister Tzipori on Strategic Cooperation With U.S.

TA121558 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] I am opposed to a strategic cooperation with the United States that is like handcuffs on Israel in its decisionmaking on the Lebanese matter. These remarks were made by Communications Minister Mordekhay Tzipori in our program Strategic Death. Minister Tzipori was asked to comment on the effect such a strategic agreement between Israel and the United States would have on our freedom of action in Lebanon.

[Begin Tzipori recording] Just as our U.S. partner has its own feedom of action in moves inside this arena, whether selling arms or giving aid, holding joint maneuvers, or establishing forces of one sort or another in Arab countries, so Israel has its own freedom of action, and it will have to decide in accordance with its interests. I can give you an example: The Americans were very unhappy about our leaving the Ash-Shuf. We did not ask them; we just left the Ash-Shuf. There is no doubt that we have common interests with the United States, and whatever we can do in coordinating positions or moves without harming Israel's freedom of action is desirable. However, is it essential that this coordination handcuff Israel and the Government of Israel in its decision-making? I think we must avoid this firmly. Therefore, I am also opposed to any signing of strategic cooperation agreements. Understanding and dialogue — yes; binding agreements committing us to moves or consultations — no. [end recording]

Lubrani Comments on U.S. Presence in Lebanon

TA091635 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 9 Dec 83 p 17

[Interview with coordinator of activities in Lebanon Uri Lubrani by Tali Zelinger in Lubrani's Tel Aviv office "in the middle of this week"]

[Excerpt] Question: What is on your agenda right at this moment? What will you deal with today and tomorrow?

Answer: The central issue concerning us these days is to see how the new situation created by the deeper U.S. involvment in the Beirut arena develops. We would like to know how the United States will react following the killing of the eight Marines the downing of the two planes, and the capture of two of their pilots by the Syrians (one of them dead); many implications can arise from one form of U.S. reaction or another. It is important to us to know if the U.S. decisiveness will continue regarding their obligations in the Beirut area, in what way will be expressed, and whether this will influence our moves.

Question: What influences do you expect and what do you fear?

Answer: First of all I do not fear anything. However, it is difficult for me to say what I expect. I would very much like to know if this U.S. reaction will be sharp, how it will influence the Syrian deployment, and whether this reaction will influence the Ash-Shuf Druze. I would also like to know how a U.S. reaction will be perceived (regarding its scope and strength) by the rest of the elements stirring the Beirut pot, for instance the Shi'ite element of the Beirut population. This is the source of quite a number of problems for the Marines themselves; it is hard to overcome them while acting inside Beirut itself. I would like to know what will happen next, since all this is directed toward our goal — strengthening the present Lebanese Administration, which if it is strong enough will be able to take over responsibility for the areas we would like to hand over. On the other hand, any weakening of this administration decreases the chance that we will have someone to whom we can hand over the areas we would like to evacuate.

Question: Could we not predict developments in the U.S. context in light of the cooperation and the coordination?

Answer: Up until now the cooperation has not been very strong. We waited to see how they would react following the disaster of the booby-trapped car, and they did not react quickly. We do not quite understand their reactions. This is definitely not an alliance where everything is orchestrated. On the whole, in my personal opinion, the Americans treat cooperation with us as part of the web of relations in the Middle East, a web that has other parts with other countries in the region. I am also not sure this is good for us. We should aspire to an understanding and a joint basis vis-a-vis as many issues as possible with the United States. However, there is no doubt that disputed issues will remain between us. Total cooperation would turn us into the 51st state. This does not work this way. There are many points of friction with the United States; however in anything regarding Lebanon we are, more or less, on the same wavelength. That is why it is so important for us to know how they will react. And, of course, we also have forces who are sitting right on the border.

Question: Can we influence the kind and the scope of the U.S. reaction so that it does not cause damage?

Answer: We have no right to tell the Americans how to react to their disasters and their losses. There is a certain amount of coordination between us. We are in the area with planes and ships. I do not know about more than that. There must be coordination similar to what they have with the French in the area.

Question: You said before that the Americans, in all their actions, strive to strengthen the Lebanese Government as their only goal. Do you still believe that it is possible to build this government? Or do you believe that the Americans do not know who exactly they are dealing with there?

Answer: The Americans have sobered up. They know who the actors are. However, the goal is still valid, and everything is being done to achieve it with the given human resources. The Americans continue to invest in training and arming the Lebanese Army. This Army is still holding together, to the surprise of many. There were desertions, of Druze as well as Shi'ites, but not to the expected extent, and new soldiers are being recruited. Our goal is to give this Army, which at the end of the process will be trained and armed, the areas, or at least a significant part of

the areas, where we are deployed. After all, southern Lebanon is Al-Jumayyil's administration's only living space. In the Ash-Shuf he cannot find such an area; in the north the Syrians are deployed and he cannot penetrate there. He can only receive the areas we would like to hand over to him. This is the optimum scenario; and anything that can strengthen this government is positive from our point of view. From this arise the other implications of concern about what will happen with the Americans. The U.S. decisiveness is the Lebanese strength. Anytime a crack shows in the U.S. decisiveness, spirits fall in Beirut and their strength is weakened. We have an interest in their strength.

Israel, U.S. To Discuss Free Trade Zone 17 Jan

JN1111730 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] Our correspondent says that the official talks between Israel and the United States to reach an agreement on establishing a free trade zone between the two countries will begin on 17 January in Washington. Minister of Industry and Commerce Gid'on Pat is scheduled to meet in Washington on Tuesday with the U.S. foreign trade representative William Brock to work out the agenda of the U.S.-Israeli talks that will take place next month.

Opposition to U.S.-Sponsored Anti-Soviet Convention

TA130631 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Government authorities dealing with Soviet Jews do not want Knesset members to attend the anti-Soviet interparliamentarian convention sponsored by the United States. The convention will be attended by 60 Senators and dozens of Western parliamentarians. It will discuss the issue of human rights and the right of all minorities to emigrate. A U.S. senator visiting Israel invited a group of Knesset members, including Yitzhaq Rabin, Moshe Shahal, and Ge'ula Kohen, to the convention. However, our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh said that the office dealing with Soviet Jews told them that Israel has gone to great lengths not to interfere with Soviet affairs and that its activities are solely for the sake of Jewish emigration.

Commentary on Prime Minister's Message to USSR

TA121314 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 12 Dec 83 p 8

[Commentary by Moshe Zaq: "A Message to Moscow"]

[Text] The prime minister took a commendable initiative this week. He sent a message to the Soviet Government.

Since diplomatic relations between Israel and the Soviet Union were severed (at the end of the 6-day war) Israel has replied to various Soviet messages, most of them complaining about attacks on Russian ships in Latakia or Port Said or about the Soviet Embassy compound in Beirut. The messages were relayed by the Finnish Embassy which represents Soviet interests in Israel, while most of the replies were conveyed by the Dutch Embassy which represents Israel's affairs in Moscow. There was at least one instance when the Soviet Union appealed to Israel via the United States — in 1976 — when Soviet ships could not approach the port of Tyre and unload cargo for the PLO or the port of Sidon which was besieged by the Syrians who were blocking any aid to the PLO. The Soviet Union then asked the United States to help to persuade Israel to lift the blockade on Tyre.

The channel that served the exchanges between Moscow and Jerusalem was not blocked in the wake of the severance of relations. However, whereas in the past the Soviets initiated written exchanges, this time the initiative came from Israel. To date, only meetings had been initiated by Israel.

In his message to the Soviet Government, the prime minister made it plain that Pershings would not be stationed in Israel and that there was no intention to station long-range missiles — capable of reaching targets within Soviet territory — on Israeli soil. The message was conveyed to Moscow in the wake of reports in the Soviet media alleging that an agreement had recently been reached in Washington about aggression against the Soviet Union and Syria and that Israel would be equipped with long-range missiles capable of reaching the Soviet Union.

The prime minister probably did not delude himself that he would be able to persuade Moscow to go back on its accusation. After all, the Soviet press does not tend to admit to its errors. Nevertheless, it is important that Soviet policymakers should know the truth, especially at a time when Syria is pressuring its ally to expand its military commitment to Lebanese territory and when leaders of the Syrian Ba'th Party have declared that Red Army units have been asked to come to Damascus's help, in addition to the 7,000 advisers and experts who are already stationed in Syria.

Since the 1960's, Moscow has regarded Syria as "the Soviet Union's southern border." This term was even included in messages sent to Israel on the eve of the 6-day war. Therefore, Israel wasa not surprised when the Soviet Union coupled the new delivery of missiles to Syria this spring with a sharp announcement that the Soviet weapons were designed to preclude an Israeli attack on Syria. When the intimidation campaign against Israel persisted through declarations that the Soviet Union would "stand by Syria in the event of a war," the United States used the Soviet attack on Israel in the wake of the agreement with Lebanon to categorically reject all the Soviet threats. The Soviet-Syrian campaign has escalated since then to the point where both Israel and the United States were forced to make it plain to Moscow and Damascus that they would not capitulate to their intimidation campaigns. This is the real meaning of the understanding reached in Washington.

The Israeli prime minister knows that no agreement was made in Washington about any [Israeli] military operation against Syria and certainly not against the Soviet Union. He was also convinced that the United States has no such intentions. In contrast, the Americans fear that the Syrians harbor aggressive intentions and that they want to drag the Soviet Union into a war. Everything must be done to prevent such a dangerous development, for the sake of the region and the entire world. This is the goal the United States sought to attain by persuading Syria that its aggressive policy would not be worthwhile.

The United States did not put the lid on the option of a dialogue with Damascus and it has certainly not turned its back on the option of a dialogue with the Soviets.

Secretary of State Shultz wants to confer with Andrey Gromyko in Stockholm in mid-January whereas President Reagan's special envoy, Donald Rumsfeld, is scheduled to arrive in Damascus despite the tension prevailing between Syria and the United States and, perhaps, because of it.

The Syrians opted for operating in Lebanon by remote control, through the Shi'ite, Druze, and Palestinian militia. These militia were quite surprised by the firm position adopted by the Americans who blocked them in the outskirts of Beirut and bombed their bases in Al-Matn and Al-Biqa'.

Following this surprise, the militia reached a cease-fire agreement with the Lebanese Army. The agreement was made in Damascus and that means that the Syrians also accepted it. Even if it is not meticulously observed, it proved to the Americans that a firm position has its rewards. This may also constitute a breakthrough for a direct dialogue with Damascus.

The Americans are confident that they will ultimately work out an arrangement with the Syrians. However, they have realized that the conciliatory approach they embraced last year leads to a deadend. Therefore, they are making it very clear to the Syrians that there is no way back from the Israeli-Lebanese agreement of 17 May that was signed with the mediation of the United States.

Moreover, the Syrians cannot count on the Soviet Union to intimidate Israel or on the terrorist operations of the various militia. After all, Israel is not alone; it has the United States on its side. That is the reason why George Shultz talks about the opposition to the Israeli-U.S. understanding he encountered during his tour of the Arab countries. This disclosure cannot diminish the value of the agreement.

On the contrary, the agreement was strengthened when Shultz declared in an Arab capital that despite this Arab opposition, the United States will not cancel this understanding.

In other words, if Damascus wants to enter a dialogue with Washington it must take the Israeli-U.S. agreement into account. Even the Soviet Union must consider this fact in light of the increasing Syrian pressure to step up the intimidation campaign against Israel.

On the other hand, because it does not want a military confrontation with the Soviet Union — even if it is assured of U.S. support — the Israeli Government must make it clear to the Kremlin that the understanding reached in Washington is not directed against Moscow and not even against Damascus. It is merely to warn all warmongers or those who are trying to implicate the superpowers in their dangerous games.

Even if the Soviet Union does not change its anti-Israeli propaganda, Israel is not absolved from telling it the truth so that Damascus does not decide for Moscow when to pull the trigger.

Benziman Commentary on Israeli-U.S. Relations

TA091255 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Dec 83 p 12

[Commentary from Washington by 'Uzi Benziman: "New Era, Limited"]

[Text] The more the tumult of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's visit to Washington dies down and the dust of the publicity about it settles, the more doubts about the genuineness of the claim that the Reagan-Shamir meeting brought about the flowering of a new era in Israeli-U.S. relations are growing. The details that have been learned since Shamir and Arens parted from their hosts justify a reexamination of the results of the dialogue and their significance.

— There cannot be strategic cooperation: The main U.S. interest lies in the Persian Gulf. The United States cannot be interested in Israel's services to defend this interests. Defense of U.S. interests in the Gulf area passes through the Indian Ocean, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. Israel cannot contribute anything in this field. Nobody expects U.S. intervention in one of the Gulf states through Israel. U.S. strategic interest in the Middle East is intended to be realized through southern Europe. There has not been any change in this U.S. approach, even after the changing of the guard in Israel's leadership. Therefore, no military cooperation between Israel and the United States is to be expected.

There cannot be any understanding of the basic problems of the Middle East: The United States, even under Ronald Reagan's rule, still believes that the basic solution to the Israeli-Arab dispute is a complete Israeli withdrawal, with certain border changes, and granting the Palestinian people's aspirations of a national expression. The Government of Israel, under Yitzhaq Shamir's leadership completely negates the U.S. approach.

The boast of arriving at cooperation and coordination of position is mistaken by its very nature: The United States expects that such decisions as the bombing of the nuclear reactor in Iraq, the war against the PLO in Lebanon, the annexation of the Golan Heights, will only be made after coordination with it, while Israel expects that no decision on the lines of the Reagan plan for a solution to the Palestinian problem (last September) will be formulated without its knowledge and agreement.

— The field of cooperation: There may be cooperation between the two countries' armies at times of distress, on a limited scale, such as urgent Israeli aid being extended to U.S. forces. The precoordination needed for this could reach the point of the preparation of a medical infrastructure in Israel for the use of the U.S. Army. It is very doubtful if any early preparedness of this type would also include ammunition stores.

— Ad hoc cooperation — Syria: The talk about cooperation between the two countries started because of their embarrassment over the complications in Lebanon. Israel and the United States have a common interest in withdrawing their forces — honorably — from Lebanon, and they are creating conditions aimed at bringing basic stability to that country. Both countries have agreed that, to achieve this purpose, they must work as a team to force Syria — as George Shultz phrased it — to act more

wisely (than it has done to date). The measures are: Military pressure on Damascus' satellites in Lebanon, and, if necessary, on Syria itself. The United States is not asking Israel, to put it bluntly, to start a large-scale war against Syria, but it did explain to Shamir and Arens its expectations of vigorous Israeli reactions to provocations by Syria and its envoys. The attack by the U.S. aircraft against Syrian missile positions this week was, as it were, intended to give Israel on example of the type of reaction expected from it with regard to Syrian provocations. The United States did not hesitate to send 28 planes against a country with whom it still maintains diplomatic relations. It was not deterred by a military confrontation with an Arab country and had no fears of getting into complications with the USSR.

Israel, as stated, is not being asked to initiate a war against Syria, but there are already diplomats who are thinking that if we are doomed to fight Syria once again, it would be better to do so now, while Al-Asad's health is shaky, Yuriy Andropov is bedridden and the United States has a supportive Navy near Beirut and is willing to deter the Soviets and give Israel any aid it asks for.

The solution in Lebanon: Military and psychological pressure on the Damascus rulers is intended to make it easier for the United States and Israel to try to solve the Lebanese mess. This can be done by cutting the Muslims and Druze in Lebanon off from their Syrian sponsor and creating an incentive for them to arrive at an internal agreement which would overcome their dependence on Damascus. This can be accomplished by using various means: persuading the Phalange to agree to autonomy for the Druze in the Ash-Shuf area; persuading Junblatt to give a symbolic foothold in the Ash-Shuf hills to the Beirut rule; persuading the Shi'ites in Lebanon (via the political leader, Nabih Birri) to accept Al-Jumayyil's rule; and, at the same time, persuading the Phalange to grant greater ruling authority to the Shi'ite sect, spurring on the Lebanese Army to take control of vacant territory and to prepare to receive symbolic posts in areas under Israeli control as well. The "persuasion" and "spurring on" will be done through a set of pressures and rewards used by the United States and Israel on the various elements constituting the Lebanese mess.

The U.S. recompense: Israel must participate in the above program (which draws partial inspiration from Israeli ideas) in return for which the United States is acting in two ways: the prospect of a great rapprochement between the two countries, and financial rewards. The prospect of a great rapprochement is intended to impress the world and the Arab countries (not to mention the U.S. electorate and the Israeli nation); it has a political benefit for Israel — although its term and impression are not limitless. The financial recompense is more real — but it would be advisable to examine its scale very carefully.

In terms of measurements, the result of the visit by Shamir and Arens is an increase of $125 million in direct military aid, above and beyond the administration's original intentions. In addition to this, the administration agreed to convert $200 million of the military aid into shekels to finance the establishment of an airfield in the Negev (a previous promise that has not so far been kept), and also to allocate $550 million of the military budget to the production of the Lavi and its development (of which $250 million will be converted to shekels and used in Israel). These two agreements [sikumim] have been presented as part of the visit's achievements; but in fact one of them, (financing the Lavi from the approved aid), was forced upon the administration by Congress, and the second, (the establishment of the airfield), was under protracted discussion between the two countries and was close to a positive conclusion even before the visit.

The U.S. Administration put these agreements [sikumim] together as a reward to Shamir in order to enhance the impression made of the prime minister's achievements. However, it is true that the visit accelerated positive decisions in these fields. There is an immeasurable field of financial recompense whose nature and scale will only be made clear in the future: a free trade zone (discussions, which have been going on for the past 2 years, and which will be speeded up as a result of the visit); giving Israel the possibility of competing in bids to supply services to the U.S. Army stationed outside the United States; the removal of restrictions on the sale of Israeli military products in the United States; return purchases by U.S. civilian factories in Israel at a rate of 15 percent of the value of the Israeli purchases in the United States; and the establishment of installations in Israel for the use of the U.S. Army at times of emergency.

It is estimated that the return U.S. purchases in Israel — if they are realized — will reach $150 million. The improvement in Israel's terms in bids for the supply of services to the U.S. Army cannot, at this statge, be measured, because its scale and degree of implementation are unknown. Removing the restrictions on the marketing of Israeli military products in the United States could increase its scale from $100 million, as it has been over the past 4 years, to several hundred millions of dollars a year. The realization of the idea of a free trade zone is also impossible to measure at this stage.

The establishment of an infrastructure in Israel for the U.S. Army could involve considerable sums, but this idea's chance of being implemented is small; the Pentagon will do all it can to foil this plan.

In brief, in the economic field, the chance of an increase in Israel's ability to compete within the U.S. market has increased, but its actualization is not certain. In contrast to this, the direct increase in the scale of the military aid is clear ($125 million), and the willingness to supply Israel's needs in this field in the future is almost as clear, even if the sums needed are greater than the agreed-upon aid for 1985 ($4.1 billion).

Risks: The actual recompense in the economic field will not come about because of obstacles set up by the Pentagon. For the same reason, no joint maneuvers will be held and military cooperation will be secret and restricted to the field of intelligence. The joint committees will turn into empty frameworks. Because of the demonstrated rapprochement between the two countries, the United States will have the ability to supervise Israel's intentions. The plan for Lebanon will not succeed because of the sects' fears of being cut off from Syria and because of the Lebanese Army's inability to act against the various sects without being exposed to the dangers of desertions from its ranks.

The military pressure the United States will exert on Syria and its satellites in Lebanon will increase its military involvement and

its losses. As a result of this, pressure inside the United States to bring the Marines home will increase, even without an arrangement [hesder] (this week's reaction to the confrontation with Syria and the losses caused as a result of that confrontation could be an omen for the future).

Israel will not fulfill the U.S. expectations in the military sphere. This will have a bad effect on its status and also on its deterrent capability, and this is the greatest risk of all: Israel will be dragged into accepting its military involvement in Lebanon.

— Chances: The achievement of an arrangement in Lebanon — a low probability. The actualization of the intentions for military cooperation between Israel and the United States — quite a low probability. The actualization of the economic programs — the chances are not bad. Deepening both countries' mutual commitments because of their common efforts in the Lebanese-Syrian sector — the chances are not bad.

— Achievements: Direct financial aid and the guarantee of sources of employment in Israel (the Lavi and the Negev airfield). A vision of great understanding and cooperation with the United States.

— Conclusion: A good situation in the relations between the two countries, in which, at this moment, the common interest springing from the desire to teach Syria a lesson is overcoming the basic differences of opinion.

It is desirable not to miss the right time, that will apparently continue until the Presidential election and will have a great influence over Damascus' moves.

However, it is important not to develop exaggerated expectations and not to suffer from delusions about the nature of the "new era" that has opened up in Israeli-U.S. relations. And, what is even more important is to beware of paying a high military price in Lebanon for the realization of this common interest.

Meridor Praises West Bank Condemnation of Blast

TA121004 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Dec 83 p 3

[Text] Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor yesterday welcomed the statement of six prominent West Bank Arabs, including former Ramallah Mayor Karim Khalaf, poetess Raymonda at-Tawil and former Jordanian Defence Minister Anwar Nusaybah, condemning last week's terrorist bus explosion in Jerusalem, in which five people were killed.

Meridor said it was the first time that West Bank leaders had criticized an action for which the PLO took responsibility. The Cabinet secretary expressed the cautious hope that this was a turning-point in West Bank attitudes towards the PLO.

He said it was a positive result of the Lebanon war, in that such a statement would have been unthinkable 18 months ago.

U.S. Welfare Activities in Territories Expanding

TA121040 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 12 Dec 83 p 2

[Report by Yosef Tzuri'el]

[Text] Following instructions from Washington, five U.S. welfare organizations operating in the administered territories, which receive their budgets from the U.S. Administration, are preparing to expand their activities in the fields of education, agriculture, health, water and electricity.

These organizations invested approximately $6 million last year in various development projects, mostly in Judaea and Samaria and some in the Gaza Strip. The budget of these organizations for the current year amounts to some $7 million.

All signs currently indicate that the tendency of the U.S. Administration is to exploit the confusion prevailing in the administered territories in the wake of the rift in the PLO and establish its stronghold among the Arab population.

Red Cross Calls for Release of 'Terrorist'

TA091517 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] The president of the International Red Cross (IRC) has called upon Prime Minister Shamir to intervene in the matter of terrorist Ziyad Abu 'Ayn, who was not released at the PLO's request when the six Israeli prisoners were returned.

The organization's spokesman said in Geneva that so far Israel has not responded to previous IRC appeals. This week the IDF spokesman reported that the terrorist had not been released because his name had not appeared on the list submitted by the PLO representatives.

Briefs

New Communications Adviser — Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has appointed Avi Pazner, the former spokesman of the Foreign Ministry, as his adviser on communications and foreign press. He will replace Uri Porat, who is going on leave. [Excerpt] [Tel Aviv *MA'ARIV* in Hebrew 12 Dec 83 p 11 TA]

Special Adviser to Shamir — Dr Re'uven Hecht has been appointed special adviser to the prime minister. This was announced by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in yesterday's Cabinet session. Dr Hecht also served as adviser to former Prime Minister Menahem Begin. [Text] [Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1335 GMT 12 Dec 83 TA]

ALGERIA

Bendjedid Welcomes Mauritanian President

LD122127 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] The president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Khouna Ould Haydala, arrived in Algiers this afternoon on a friendly, working visit. He was welcomed at Houari Boumediene International Airport by Brother President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the FLN. President Bendjedid was accompanied by brother members of the Political Bureau Prime Minister Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani; Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi; Minister of Interior Ahmed Haj Yala; a number of members of government; senior party and state officials; the Mauritanian ambassador to Algeria; and members of the Arab and African diplomatic corps.

LIBYA

Sudanese Said To Establish Positions in Abeche

LD130945 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0921 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Abeche, 13 Dec (JANA) — According to informed sources here, heavy concentrations of Sudanese forces backed by U.S. units have taken up positions in Abeche and the surrounding area with the intention of occupying the eastern region of Chad and then moving northward. It has now been confirmed that French and Zairian forces have increased their strength in Ndjamena and have brought in large quantities of heavy guns and transport vehicles in order to attack northern Chad. These reports confirm that all the talk about ending the current conflict among the warring parties there was false. It is equally clear that despite the efforts of the OAU, all that talk was merely a pretext for camouflaging a large-scale act of aggression being planned for the occupation of Chad and the restoration of imperialism there. In this respect, the French have capitalized on Habre's naivete and his ambition to seize power. These reports also indicate that the United States is anxiously seeking to impose its domination over the African Continent and establish a foothold there.

'Cooperation' Talks With Tunisia Open

LD130230 Tripoli JANA in English 1817 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi al Awal 7, Dec 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Started this morning in Tripoli the Libyan-Tunisian talks on bolstering cooperation in the work force sector in implementation of the resolutions of the joint meeting held in Tripoli between the General People's Committee and the Tunisian cabinet.

The meeting was attended by Muhammad al-Mabruk, the secretary of the General People's Committee for Public Services and from Tunisia Mohamed Naceur, minister of social affairs in addition to a number of experts and specialists from the Jamahiriyah and Tunisia.

Mohamed Naceur opened the session stressing Tunisia's desire to develop and strengthen its relations with the Jamahiriyah in all sectors towards complete economic integration.

Muhammad al-Mabruk, in return, welcomed the Tunisian delegation expressing that the Jamahiriyah is ready to implement all the agreements and programmes concluded with Tunisia in order to achieve economic integration ebtween the Jamahiriyah and Tunisia.

A number of technical committees were formed to draw a comprehensive programme in the work force sector.

TUNISIA

Foreign Minister on PLO's 'Moment of Truth'

LD121829 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Minister of Foreign Affairs Beji Caid es-Sebsi discussed bilateral relations and conditions in the Arab world with Mizran Ahmad al-Hamad, Kuwait's ambassador to Tunis.

As part of the intensive efforts being made by Tunisian diplomacy to find a solution to the current crisis in the Palestinian revolution, Beji Caid es-Sebsi met this morning with the Syrian charge d'affaires in Tunis and with the ambassadors of France, Italy, and the Soviet Union.

Following these talks, which were devoted to a discussion of the means which might be used to break the Israeli siege around the Palestinian fighters in Tripoli, Beji Caid es-Sebsi made the following statement:

The PLO is today facing its moment of truth. The fate of the Palestinian problem depends on what becomes of the Palestinian fighters now under siege in Tripoli. Israeli is determined to close all paths before them, crush them, and prevent any attempt at rescue. By doing this, Israel once again challenges UN resolutions, gloats in its arrogance and tyranny, and seeks to hit the Palestinian problem in the heart and destroy the morale of the Palestinian people. Israel wants to trample upon Arab dignity by destroying the capacity of the organization which is regarded by public opinion as the legitimate representative and indisputable negotiator, and one which has asserted itself through struggle and steadfastness.

At this dangerous hour, the organization must not remain in isolation before the enemy. We must extend a helping hand to it in order to prevent it from being destroyed. Therefore, the Tunisian Government issues an appeal to all Arab leaders and to all supporters of freedom and peace in the world to shoulder their responsibility and prevent what is now going on from becoming a tragedy with dire consequences for all. Moreover, the Tunisian Government — with sincerity and a sense of fraternity and weighty responsibility — issues an appeal to the brothers in Syria and to the factions split from the PLO to work toward removing the causes which divide them from the Organization's leadership and to immediately break the siege surrounding the fighters in Tripoli.

KENYA

Further on Independence Anniversary Celebrations

Moi Speech

EA122023 Nairobi KNA in English 0937 GMT 12 Dec 83

["Speech by his excellency the president, Honorable Daniel T. arap Moi, on the occasion of Jamhuri Day, 12th December 1983" — KNA headline]

[Excerpts] Nairobi Dec 12 (KNA) — My dear countrymen, today, we are not merely observing an anniversary of our independence as has happened many times before. Today's occasion has much greater significance because we are recognizing in a manner both solemn and joyful that our country has reached the end of what is always a challenging voyage. The first twenty years of trial and challenge as an independent nation. Therefore, in the spirit of pride and humility, I convey my heartfelt greetings to Kenyans everywhere.

Turning to our external relations, Kenya's position since independence has not changed. Our foreign policy continues to be guided by the principles of good neighborliness. Nonalignment and noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries. Kenya has been and will continue to be a committed member of the Organization of African Unity, the Nonaligned Movement, the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Nations.

In advocating for the policy of good neighborliness, we are motivated by the realization that only good can come from friendly neighbors willing to cooperate for the mutual benefits of their peoples. As Kenyans, we are not immune to problems affecting any one of our immediate neighbors.

It is against this background that I, together with my brothers and colleagues, President Nyerere of Tanzania, and President Obote of Uganda, both of whom are with us today, met in Arusha a few weeks ago and agreed to renew cooperation based on trust and to normalize relations between our three countries as a basis for restoring peace and tranquility in east Africa.

I am grateful to the two presidents for their statesmanship on this matter. I would like to assure them of Kenya's determination to play her part for the success of this renewed friendship. I also wish to reassure them that Kenya shall not tolerate any subversive elements, whether local or foreign, to operate from our soil so as to deny or interfere with the peace that must be enjoyed by our brothers and sisters in Tanzania and Uganda.

On issues facing the continent of Africa, Kenya's stand is not questionable. We have spoken out against the oppressive policies pursued by the racist regime of South Africa and the dangers it poses against neighboring states. We support the liberation struggle being waged by our brothers and sisters in South Africa and Namibia.

We urged the international community to intensify public opinion, moral and material support for the oppressed people of southern Africa as well as the independent Africa states, that have become victims of destabilization policy pursued by the South Africa regime.

On the question of Namibia's independence, we oppose the linkage policy that advocates Namibia's independence conditional on the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. We urged all the OAU member-states, friendly countries and institutions beyond Africa to step up their support for SWAPO so that Namibia's freedom can be attained soon.

On the problems of Chad and Western Sahara, we have always supported and will continue to support efforts by the OAU in search for a lasting solution. It is Kenya's hope that these problems will soon be resolved within the OAU framework and without outside interference.

You are all aware that two and a half years ago, Kenya was honored when I was elected the OAU chairman, a position I held for unprecedented two year period. It was a period that saw some of the worst crises that the OAU has faced since its inception.

I thank all Kenyan's for having stood by me in the furthering African unity, above all, I wish to record my profound thanks to my brothers and colleagues, the heads of state and government of the OAU, some of whom are with us today for the unqualified support and encouragement they gave me during my chairmanship and I ask them to extend the same support and encouragement to my successor and the current OAU chairman in his efforts to find solutions to the problems still facing our continent. I wish Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam every success.

I want to conclude by reminding all of you that the social fabric established in Kenya at the end of these two decades, is fundamentally of our own making, I have today, identified and outlined many of the achievements we have accomplished so far.

Twenty years ao we discovered and built a national ship and for twenty years, we navigated it in calm or storm from now, we are embarking on a slightly different voyage towards the next commemorative harbor.

Have faith in yourselves, have confidence in your government, with the creative strength of peace, love and unity, we shall succeed because, succeed we must.

Thank you.

Moi Meetings

EA122243 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] This evening President Moi held successful discussions with President's Nyerere of Tanzania and Obote of Uganda. The discussions centered on regional cooperation and international issues. The discussions were attended by the minister for foreign affairs, Mr Elijah Mwangale, and the minister for energy and regional development, Mr Nicholas Biwott.

Moi Pardon

EA121232 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi has today released 7,000 prisoners to mark Kenya's 20 years of independence. All those released today were committed of minor offenses [as heard]. Announcing the pardon, President Moi appealed to them to join other Kenyans in the efforts of nation-building in the coming decade. He further appealed to them to be of good behavior and be prepared to learn from good citizens of this country.

Obote-Mengistu Meeting

EA121141 Kampala Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] President Obote who is now in Nairobi to attend celebrations marking Kenya's 20th anniversary of independence has received President Bagaza of Burundi and the Ethiopian head of state, Lieutenant Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, who is also the current chairman of the OAU. Col Mengistu expressed condolences to Dr Oboto on the tragic and untimely death of the late chief of staff, officers, and men of the Ugandan National Liberation Army, UNLA, who died in a helicopter accident more than 1 week ago. In his capacity as chairman of the OAU, Col Mengistu briefed Dr Oboto on developments in Chad, the Western Sahara, and other African issues. The president thanked the Ethiopian head of state for what he has done in bringing peace and stability in Chad. Dr Obote and President Bagaza of Burundi discussed matters pertaining to the Kagera Basin organization. Both meetings were attended by the ministers of regional cooperation, Mr Sam Tewungwa, of state for foreign affairs, Dr Picho Owiny, and of state in the president's office, Mr Chris Rwakasisi.

SWAPO's Nujoma Press Conference

EA122055 Nairobi KNA in English 1825 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Nairobi Dec 12 — The visiting Southwest-African People's Organization (SWAPO) leader said here that he was more optimistic than he was some years [ago] about the independence of Namibia.

Mr Nujoma, who was addressing a press conference, paid tribute to the French Government for making a noble gesture by withdrawing from the five member Contact Group, set up by the United Nations to negotiate the independence of Namibia. He said he was happy to see the Contact Group disintegrate, adding that this was proof that the body had not lived up to its goals.

Mr Nujoma is here for the 20th anniversary celebrations of Kenya's independence.

The SWAPO leader condemned imperialists, who he accused of collaborating with racist South Africa to block Namibian independence. But Nujoma hailed the United Nations efforts to bring about the independence of his country. He said it was the direct responsibility of the United Nations to bring about speedy liberation of Namibia: We have faith in the United Nations Resolution 435 and we feel that it is the direct responsibility of United Nations to bring about Namibia independence, said Nujoma.

Lamenting over the injustices of racist South Africa and the misery that inhuman regime had inflicted on the Namibian people, Mr Nujoma appealed to the peace-loving world community for solidarity with the Namibian people whom he said had suffered for a long time.

Saying that the Namibian people had fought for the last 17 years, Nujoma vowed that the struggle would continue until his country was free from the oppression of South Africa. Freedom cannot be achieved on a silver plate, said Mr Nujoma.

Mr Nujoma categorically condemned the parties which hold that Namibia's independence could only be achieved if the Cuban forces were removed from Angola. He said Angola was a sovereign state and no country had a right to interfere with her internal policies.

Mr Nujoma denied rumours and reports that President Shehu Shagari of Nigeria had suggested that Cuban forces in Angola be replaced by a peace-keeping force from the frontline states in order to bring about the independence of Namibia.

He said Nigeria was a strong believer in Namibian independence and was totally opposed to the Cuban linkage in the issue.

On his personal safety, Nujoma said his life would be in danger had he to return to his home country today. He said that he was fighting a scientific guerrilla war in solidarity with other freedom fighters.

The SWAPO boss appealed for aid from the international community adding that the Namibian liberation could not be achieved by SWAPO alone.

He strongly condemned racist South Africa and termed it a major obstacle to Namibian independence. He said racist South Africa, keeping the tradition of colonialists, continued to rob Namibia of her wealth. He said minerals and wild animals were removed from his country by the imperialists.

Racist South Africa continues to rule Namibia, formerly known as South-Western Territory, illegally in defiance of the United Nations Resolution 435.

CHAD

French 'Mercenaries' Cited on Faya Operations

AB121310 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] The French Government has been accused of having been involved in the Faya-Largeau battle through 32 mercenaries whom it recruited to facilitate the recapture of that strategic town by the national annihilation forces. As a matter of fact, one of the mercenaries, Alex, 37, has broken the agreement signed with the socialist government and disclosed to the French magazine *VSD* the hell he lived through in the palm grove during the battle against the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] forces [words indistinct].

According to Alex, the French Government recruited 32 mercenaries last July for 6 months paying 250,000 CFA each per month [words indistinct] to carry out the Faya-Largeau operation, which failed pitifully. Another mercenary has revealed that this force was stationed in a secret base in the neighborhood of Ndjamena far from newsmen, obeying both Hissein Habre and the French Defense Ministry. [Passage indistinct]

This is a fresh proof of France's interventionist policy which the Mitterrand administration is practicing in disregard of the principle of self-determination championed by the socialists. This socialist barracuda [reference to the French military unit, Barracuda, which helped overthrow Emperor Bokassa] which is similar to the one created by the rightist government, makes it possible to clarify the developments which took place in Faya-Largeau and to establish France's responsibility for the aggravation and the internationalization of the Chadian conflict. This is also a fundamental information that the OAU should take into consideration with regard to the Chadian problem.

Problem of Refugees in Neighboring Countries Noted

AB121345 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] The unfortunate plan to establish in Chad a terrorist, bloodthirsty regime is a challenge to the international community, which has just celebrated the 35th anniversary of the declaration of human rights. For Chad, this anniversary is particularly important in view of the criminal maneuvers of imperialism and its local lackeys aimed at muzzling the martyred Chadian people. In fact, what significance can the declaration of human rights have for the Chadian people when the sworn enemies of democracy and freedom operate freely in our country?

In our country precisely, the patriots have (?united) to check the satanic undertaking of imperialism aimed at gagging our people in order to better dominate and exploit them. This fierce resistance put up by the fighting Chadian fighting people against the revengeful FAN hordes, who are supported and assisted by the enemies of the people's right to become masters of themselves — U.S. imperialism, Zionism, and apartheid — is a significant contribution to the quest for human rights in Chad and in Africa. The bloody events caused by (?imperialism), the ensuing suffering and dictatorship established in Ndjamena under Hissein Habre, the blackmailer [words indistinct]. As a matter of fact most of our people are obliged to go into exile in order to escape death, which has become an established policy in the region under French and Zairian occupation.

In this connection, it is noteworthy that the international media have announced on several occasions that as a result of FAN reprisals, the Chadian population is fleeing in large numbers to neighboring countries, notably Sudan, Nigeria, the CAR, Cameroon, and Libya. This is why the issue of Chadian refugees has become an economic problem to the host countries. For example, Nigeria has complained about the economic and social burden caused by Chadian refugees. Although one will find this reaction legitimate because Nigeria has been hosting Chadian refugees for nearly 3 years, one will also find the situation is the normal result of the legitimate reaction by our people, who were terrorized by barbaric murders and the blind oppression denounced abundantly by international and African humanitarian organizations. [Words indistinct] of Palestinian refugees and other people facing bloodthirsty dictatorships are an insult to the international community and humanitarian (?organizations). The Transitional National Union Government will continue to appeal for common sense and African hospitality, which host countries have already shown and will continue to show. They have never failed to fulfill their duty.

CONGO

President Meets Gabon, Equatorial Guinea Ministers

AB091545 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Summary] "Colonel Denis Sassou-Nguesso, chairman of the Central Committee of the Congolese Labor Party, president of the republic, and head of state, this morning received in audience the Gabonese minister of state for commerce [Etienne Moussirou] and the foreign minister of Equatorial Guinea [Nguema Onguene]. The mission of the Gabonese statesman, who was the first to be received by the head of state, falls within the framework of the bilateral relations between Gabon and Congo and concerns economic problems relating to the development of the Central African subregion.

[Begin recording][Moussirou] "First of all, I would like to express my very sincere thanks to the Congolese head of state, His Excellency Denis Sassou-Nguesso, who was kind enough to receive us despite his numerous engagements." We are very grateful to him. Concerning the purpose of our mission, I would like to say that it falls within the framework of the bilateral relations between Gabon and Congo and concerns the economic problems of the central African subregion.

[Unidentified reporter] "Mr Minister, 2 months ago the treaty establishing the Economic Community of Central African States [CEEAC] was signed in Libreville, and the 19th summit conference of the Central African Customs and Economic Union [UDEAC] will open in Bangui in 2 weeks. Will you redefine for

us the role of these two organizations in the development process of our subregion?

[Moussirou] "As you know, the treaty establishing the CEEAC concerns the entire subregion, that is, all of the 11 states. Africa is divided into four subregions: the northern African subregion, the western African subregion, the central African subregion — our subregion — and the eastern African subregion. In western Africa, a community already exists — ECOWAS. A community has just been created in eastern and southern Africa." It is a preferential exchange zone. The community in our central African subregion is the CEEAC. "The creation of these various economic communities is in accordance with the desire of our states to achieve what we call collective autonomy in the field of cooperation. This is naturally due to the fact that the developed countries, which now represent the world's major markets, have set up barriers against our products. We must, therefore, realize this collective autonomy, that is, we must establish subregional common markets. This is the situation as far as the CEEAC is concerned." As for the UDEAC, it is a community with some specific aspects. The Bangui conference will examine a number of problems including that of the readmission of Chad. [end recording]

"The foreign minister of Equatorial Guinea delivered a message from President Obiang Nguema to his Congolese counterpart, Col Denis Sassou-Nguesso. The minister stated that the message concerns the cooperation between both countries."

[Begin recording][Reporter] "Mr Minister, what does your country expect from its admission into the UDEAC?"

[Nguema] "We believe that Equatorial Guinea's entry into the UDEAC could bring a lot of things to our country as far as its development is concerned."

[Reporter] "Mr Minister, this is the last question. Very recently, the press reported some sort of situation in your country. What is actually the situation there?"

[Nguema] All we can tell you is that the rumors you heard are all false. The situation is calm and there is no problem. [end recording]

GABON

Bongo Messages on OAU Candidacy Reported

AB122115 Libreville Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Prime Minister Leon Mebiame has ended his visit to Kenya. He was yesterday received in audience by Kenyan President arap Moi, to whom he conveyed a message from the president of the republic, His Excellency El-Hadj Omar Bongo. Mr Mebiame told the press that the message was related to the Gabonese candidacy for the post of secretary general of the OAU.

A part of the delegation led by Mr Mebianme has not returned to Libreville. Martin Bongo, minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation, this afternoon led some members of the delegation to Brazzaville. The minister of foreign affairs, who is accompanied by Paul (Okoumbode Okpassoye), will convey to President Denis Sassou-Nguesso a message from the head of state also related to the Gabonese candidacy for the post of secretary general of the OAU. From Brazzaville, Martin Bongo will go to the Ivory Coast to convey a similar message to President Felix Houphouet-Boigny.

ZAIRE

Kimasi Receives Israeli, DPRK, Soviet Diplomats

AB121500 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1325 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] Kinshasa, 10 Dec (AZAP) — The secretary of state for foreign affairs, Kimasi Matwiku Basaula, on Friday received successively in his office Mikha'el Mikha'eli, Israeli ambassador, Kwon Song-chol, ambassador of the DPRK, and Ivan Marchuk, ambassador of the USSR.

With the Israeli diplomat, Mr Kimasi reviewed the cooperation between the Jewish state and Zaire. The two personalities expressed satisfaction with their relations which have been gaining ground since the resumption of diplomatic relations.

The DPRK ambassador conveyed a message from the Korean people to the people of Zaire, and he also informed the secretary of state of the coming visit of a North Korean trade mission to Zaire. The visit is aimed at revitalizing cooperation in the agricultural sector.

Mr Kimasi discussed with the Soviet ambassador the possibility of transferring the Soviet method of tea cultivation to Zaire. The Soviet diplomat felt that the Celza agriculture company would be the best to experiment with new techniques in this field.

Earlier the secretary of state for foreign affairs received Abdelkarim Moussa, Tunisia's ambassador, and Perhad Faldbauer, ambassador of the GDR, who paid him a courtesy call upon beginning their mission in Zaire.

GHANA

Cuban Defense Committee Official Speaks

AB121910 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] The visiting delegation of the Committee for the Defense of the Revolution in Cuba has held a working session with the National Defense Committee in Accra. Before today's meeting, the leader of the two-member delegation, Mr Juan Gonzalez, addressed a news conference. He called on the leaders of the defense committees to establish direct communications links with the people. This is because whatever they set out to do will fail without the active participation of the people. The defense committee leadership should also mobilize the people to carry out voluntary activities such as group blood donations, primary health care, and agriculture.

Mr Gonzalez advised the defense committee leaders not to lose hope when they meet problems in the course of their duties. He explained that in every new concept, problems are bound to crop up. They must, however, fight relentlessly to achieve their goal. Mr Gonzalez asked members of the defense committees to be vigilant against enemies of the revolution who are bent on wrecking their good work. He called on Ghanaians not to be disturbed by problems they may face during the course of their work, adding that the battle is hard and long, but, in the end, there is always a harvest. The delegation, which has been in Ghana for 2 weeks, leaves for home tomorrow.

Oil Exploration Agreement With Canadian Firm

AB122015 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] The Ghana Government today signed a $23 million grant agreement in Accra with Petro-Canada International Assistance Corporation for oil exploration in the country. The secretary for fuel and power, Mr Appiah-Korang, signed for Ghana while the chairman of the board of directors of the Canadian company, Mr Peter Tow, initialled for his company. Mr Appiah-Korang disclosed that in 1976, Ghana imported crude oil to the tune of $300 million, representing 50 percent of the total import bill. Against this background and the country's ailing economy, Mr Appiah-Korang said the signing of the agreement is very vital. Mr Tow said Canada, like Ghana, is doing everything possible to cut down its oil bill. He hoped the work of his company would yield favorable results.

Earlier in the day, Mr Tow had visited the Tema oil refinery and paid a courtesy call on the chairman of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Flight Lieutenant Rawlings. Welcoming him, Flight Lt Rawlings said the presence of Petro-Canada in Ghana is an indication of the genuineness of the company to help make Ghana's independence meaningful. He said not many foreign companies would be prepared to help Third World countries to overcome their difficulties. The government therefore appreciates the efforts of Petro-Canada to go into oil exploration in the country. On his part, Mr Tow said oil exploration is a risky business with the chances of success not even determined. He said, however, that with some degree of confidence, the venture will be successful. Mr Tow said his corporation will be bringing its own ships and other equipment for the drilling and hoped the corporation will not exhaust the country's limited budget resources.

LIBERIA

Doe To Meet With Officials on Attempted Coup

AB122000 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] The head of state and chairman of the People's Redemption Council [PRC], Commander in Chief Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe, has scheduled a meeting with all superintendents of counties, paramount, clan, and town chiefs at the Unity Conference Center on Friday, 16 December at 1100 in the morning.

The decision followed the head of state's meeting with the council this morning to confer with members on recent developments related to the attempt to overthrow the PRC Government. According to an Executive Mansion release, the scheduled meeting with the superintendents, chiefs, and elders is to provide them with first-hand information on the recent attempt by highly placed citizens in the government, the private sector, and the Armed Forces of Liberia to stage a coup against the government.

This is his first major statement on the issue following the confessions by Major Kalonko Luo and some other detainees associating plans by the former commanding general, Thomas Quiwonkpa, and the former co-chairman of the National Constitution Commission, Mr D.K. Wolselely, and others accused to overthrow the PRC Government.

The head of state said that during his visit to the capital, the council unanimously agreed that the acts of the accused would not retard the constitutional process which the PRC Government has committed itself to achieve. Dr Doe said the council as a whole was indeed surprised that the former co-chairman of the National Constitutional Commission could participate in actions contrary to returning the country to civilian rule. In this connection he emphasized that the council is expected to complete its deliberations on the draft constitution and submit it to the Liberian people in due course.

The head of state stressed that recent events can only be seen as a deliberate attempt to distract attention from the serious efforts by government to create a climate in the country conducive to economic and social development.

Emphasizing that government will take necessary measures to protect interests and to improve upon the general situation in the country, Dr Doe called on the business community to lend its continued support to the PRC. He assured all investors and those interested in investing in Liberia of government protection at all costs. The head of state emphasized that the current events in the country should serve more than ever to unite the Liberian people against those evil forces designed to create unrest and instability in the nation.

Another Suspect in Attempted Coup Details Role
AB121030 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0655 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] One of the three suspects charged with the responsibility of drafting a statement to be read by a member of last month's attempted coup, Mr D K. Wolseley, has reportedly admitted his participation. During his second confession at the weekend, Major Luo, who is also a suspect in the alleged plot, named Mr Wolseley along with the late General Robert Sey and Sam Dokie as the brains behind the drafted statement. Major Luo said the statement was intended to be read by General Quiwonkpa upon his coming to power.

According to the LIBERIAN NEWS AGENCY [LINA], making his confession yesterday, Mr Wolseley denied that the statement in question was meant to have been read by the former commanding general. He explained that the [words indistinct] document contained two major factors: Charges that would be leveled against the People's Redemption Council Government included its failure to efficiently conduct the affairs of the nation and the machinery that would be set up for the subsequent return to civilian rule in Liberia. He said that the statement was jointly dictated to him by General Quiwonkpa and his colleages during a meeting in a nearby village in Ganta, Nimba County.

Explaining further, Mr Wolseley said he was approached in Ganta City last November by former Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs Sam Dokie to travel with him to a nearby village where the commanding general was residing. He said he refused to travel with Mr Dokie on the grounds that he had gone to Ganta to purchase some building materials for his uncompleted house in the area, but said after being persuaded he accepted to go. Mr Wolseley is quoted by LINA as saying when he arrived at the scene, he was asked by former Commanding General Quiwonkpa to draft the statement which he, Quiwonkpa, wanted to read on radio and television. He denied his connection with the Yekepa shooting incident because he contended that it would have been naive for anyone wishing to overthrow a government in Monrovia to have launched an attack from Nimba County.

MALI

Chinese Party Delegation Begins 6-Day Visit
AB121650 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] The Chinese Communist Party delegation led by (Xiang Zanquai), vice minister in charge of the International Liaison Department, began its 6-day program in Mali today. It visited the national cigarette and match factory and [passage indistinct].

NIGERIA

Gowon Offers Views on Staying Out of Politics
AB121150 Lagos NAN in English 1140 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Jos, Dec 12 (NAN) — The former head of state, Mr Yakubu Gowon, said in Jos at the weekend that he would give the idea of staying out of politics a serious thought if the people requested that he should run for an office. Answering a reporter's questions at Government Lodge shortly after his arrival, Mr Gowon said that he preferred to stay out politics for now. You will know what I will be doing when the time comes, he said. A NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) correspondent reports Mr Gowon and his wife Victoria were cheered into the city by more than 100,000 people who had lined the route to the airport. At the airport to welcome him were the governor, Mr Solomon Lar, the speaker of the State's Assembly, Mr Patrick Dokitri, and other distinguished personalities including retired Major-General Hassan Usman Katsina.

SENEGAL

Casamance Secessionists Sentenced to Imprisonment
AB131305 Paris AFP in French 1223 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Dakar, 13 Dec (AFP) — Nine secessionists from Casamance, including Rev Augustin Diamacounce Senghor, who is believed to be the "brains" behind the movement, were sentenced on Tuesday to 5 years imprisonment by the State Security Court for offenses against territorial integrity. The court also sentenced 10 other detainees to 3 years imprisonment and 13 others were given 2 years suspended sentences while 8 of the accused were acquitted. The detainees were arrested following a secessionist demonstration staged on 26 December last year in Ziguinchor, the capital of Casamance, and the distribution of tracts signed by the "Movement of the Democratic Forces of Casamance" which is calling for independence from southern Senegal.

TOGO

J.C. Mitterrand Meets With Eyadema, Comments
AB122210 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Jean-Cristophe Mitterrand, the French president's deputy adviser for African and Malagasy affairs who arrived in Lome yesterday, was received this morning by the head of state, General Gnassingbe Eyadema. The meeting took place at the presidency in Lome . After the meeting, Jean-Cristophe Mitterrand explained the aim of his meeting with Gen Eyadema to the press.

[Begin recording] [Mitterrand] I began this journey with Mr Penne. We went to Mali, Benin, and Angola together and I stayed behind in Angola for a few days while Mr Penne came here briefly last week. As I spent a few more days in Angola, I wanted to do the same in Togo. As you are aware, I have lived here before and I like returning here. But my visit is part of my mission with Mr Penne.

I have just been received by Gen Eyadema. We discussed bilateral problems informally. We also discussed African problems, except the Chadian issue of course [as heard]. You are aware of the situation in Chad and there is hope of a meeting between Chadians. We are following the situation very closely

and we keep each other informed on developments in the situation.

Concerning the Western Sahara, the last OAU meeting proposed the anticipated solutions. With regard to Namibia, you are aware of the problems involved; things are at a standstill at the moment. We discussed various issues without a special agenda. We exchanged ideas on the good relations existing between France and Togo and we will be leaving the country as friends, full of trust.

[Unidentified reporter] The majority of issues you referred to are almost deadlocked. What could be France's role in helping Africa and the OAU out of this impasse?

[Mitterrand] The problems facing certain corners of Africa, the west (Western Sahara) and the south (Namibia), are deadlocked. It is worrying. We must find peaceful solutions through dialogue, research, and the determination of states. War is not a good thing so it must not take place. It is not easy sometimes and diplomatic procedures are long. All I can tell you is that France, in all cases, will always help. It is not an African power, but if our help is solicited, we will always give it readily. [end recording]

UPPER VOLTA

Diallo in Algiers To Finalize Oil Negotiations

AB101230 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Foreign Affairs Minister Arba Diallo was in Algiers from 3 to 7 December 1983. The minister, who was at the head of a seven-member delegation, went to Algiers to finalize with the Algerian authorities the negotiations which began last October aimed at importing Algerian oil products into Upper Volta. Following the negotiations, Comrade Arba Diallo and Abdel Fauzi Ben Maleck, the director of the Algerian Development Bank, signed a loan agreement under which the Algerian Development Bank will grant Upper Volta a $6 million loan with a 6 percent interest rate. Upper Volta will use the money to buy 24,000 cubic meters of hydrocarbons from the Algerian National Company for the Transport and Marketing of Hydrocarbons.

Statement on Nonobservance of National Day

AB101110 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Statement by Information Minister Adama Toure on "Republic Day" and "Nominal Independence Day" observances on 9 December in Ouagadougou]

[Text] The National Council of the Revolution [CNR] and the Upper Voltan Revolutionary Government have decided not to celebrate Republic Day and the Nominal Independence Day of our country which fall on 11 December this year. On 11 December 1958, French colonialism, which had just granted its colonies internal autonomy in accordance with the law, proclaimed Upper Volta's independence and made the Upper Voltan legislative assembly proclaim Upper Volta a republic on 11 December of the same year. Why did the legislative assembly choose 11 December?

The CNR and the Upper Voltan Revolutionary Government can no longer continue to celebrate with so much brilliance an event that is extraneous to the struggles of our people. They call on the Upper Voltan brothers to make 11 December a day of relfection on 23 years of independence granted us, 23 years of formal independence, in short, 23 years of neocolonial domination. The long struggle of the people of Upper Volta for freedom and independence, which was betrayed by reactionary politicians and by their political parties which were supported and financed from outside, finally triumphed on 4 August 1983 through the revolution. It is after drawing the lessons of 23 years of neocolonial domination and exploitation of our people that the CNR and the revolutionary government have been able to establish the political guidelines that will ensure the liberty, dignity, and true independence of our people and country. The CNR and the revolutionary government call on the people of Upper Volta to be conscious of the lamentable economic, political, and social situation which was created by 23 years of imperialist domination in order to transform this situation to their own exclusive interest for the greatness of our country.

The date of 11 December neither marks an event in the history of Upper Volta nor the history of its people. December 11th is a fancy choice by the colonial power and its Upper Voltan servants. It responds to the disposition of friendly heads of state in order to enable them to celebrate in their own way and in a successive way the political events in their countries: 1 December 1958, the proclamation of the Republic of Dahomey, which is now the People's Republic of Benin; 7 December 1958, proclamation of the Republic of Ivory Coast; 11 December 1958, proclamation of the Republic of Upper Volta; 18 December 1958, proclamation of the Republic of Niger. In the same way, these same friendly heads of state established a common program for the proclamation of independence: 1 August 1960, proclamation of the independence of Dahomey, now the People's Republic of Benin; 3 August 1960, proclamation of the independence of Niger; 7 August 1960, proclamation of the independence of Upper Volta; 7 August 1960, proclamation of the independence of Ivory Coast. But in Upper Volta, fearing that the rains might disturb the festivities and libations, the political leaders chose to commemorate the national independence on 11 December during the dry season. Therefore, 11 December does not represent anything for our people. They used to be called to dance and drink on this day during the dry season after the harvest in order to amuse the princes who were ruling us.

Therefore, at the call of the CNR and the revolutionary government, the people of Upper Volta will not celebrate 11 December this year. In the same way, 12 December, which should have been a national holiday, in accordance with Law Number 1661/AN of 9 May 1961, will not be observed either. It is only the 4 August Revolution that is a true independence day for Upper Volta. The fatherland or death. We will overcome.

ANGOLA

AFP: Cuban, Soviet Involvement in Fighting Seen

AB130746 Paris AFP in English 0730 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] London, Dec 13 (AFP) — The Angolan Government plans to launch an offensive against UNITA rebels in the south of the country, Arslan Humbaraci, a political adviser to the government, said here Monday.

He told a press conference that government troops had already demolished rebel strongholds in central Angola early last month and was now turning its attention to the southern Provinces of Moxico and Cuando Cubango.

Speaking personally, Mr. Humbaraci said there was a substantial risk that the war would escalate and that large numbers of Cuban troops would become involved in the fighting. Until now, the Cubans had only acted as advisers to the government.

This new development was possible because South Africa, which backs UNITA (Union for the Total Independence of Angola), had troops directly involved in the fighting in southern Angola.

Mr. Humbaraci said the Soviet Union might become involved "to control the sophisticated new weapons, including missiles, which are now on their way to Angola".

Mr. Humbaraci, a former Turk who now holds British citizenship, also revealed that French combat helicopters were being delivered to Angola. He refused to give further details.

Still speaking personally, he blamed the United States for the Cuban presence in Angola, claiming the U.S. Government had encouraged South Africa to take part in the fighting against the Luanda government.

A "cold war" situation was developing in Africa, with the Americans trying to solve the Angolan problem "in the context of an East-West conflict". Angola, on the other hand, wanted peace and did 70 per cent of its trade with Western nations.

Mr. Humbaraci added that the Angolan Army had been completely reorganised during the last six months.

This had allowed the Army to regain control of the Cuanza Sul and Huambo Provinces. The UNITA official responsible for this "strategic zone" had fled and the Army was trying to "take him alive", according to Mr. Humbaraci.

Spokesman Says No Future for Contact Group

AB121357 Luanda ANGOP in French 1100 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Luanda, 12 Dec (ANGOP) — The continued existence of the Western Contact Group on Namibia depends on the responsibility of each member-state, a spokesman for the Angolan Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in Luanda while commenting on France's decision to withdraw from the group.

The People's Republic of Angola does not see any future for the Contact Group, added the spokesman who stated that only the UN Security Council and the UN secretary general have authority over the Namibian issue. It is recalled that the French minister for foreign affairs, Claude Cheysson, last Wednesday announced the decision of the French Government to suspend its membership of the Contact Group, which was set up in 1978 and which comprises the United States, Canada, the FRG, Great Britain, and France to negotiate for Namibia's independence.

ANGOP Signs Cooperation Agreement With ZANA

AB121640 Luanda ANGOP in French 1050 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Luanda, 12 Dec (ANGOP) — A cooperation agreement signed in Luanda between the Angolan news agency (ANGOP) and the ZAMBIAN NEWS AGENCY (ZANA) marked the end of the meeting of the directors of news agencies of the frontline states that took place 7-9 December. The agreement was signed for Angola by the director of ANGOP, Jose Mena Abrantes, and for Zambia by the second secretary of the Zambian Embassy in Angola, Frigal Siame.

A final communique issued at the end of the meeting states that the directors of news agencies meeting in the Angolan capital to review and strengthen their cooperation asked ANGOP to set up an English service as soon as possible and also asked other frontline news agencies to offer facilities to ANC and SWAPO journalists.

According to the communique, the meeting also called for an increase in the news coverage of events concerning African liberation movements and recommended that similar meetings take place periodically.

Participants at the meeting strongly condemned South Africa's destabilization of southern African states and called for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of racist troops from Namibia, which it illegally occupies, and from Angolan territory. Participants also hailed the struggle of the Namibian and South African people under the leadership of their vanguard ANC and SWAPO movements fighting against the apartheid system and colonialism. They furthermore hailed the 27th anniversary of the founding of the MPLA and the sixth anniversary of its transformation into a labor party, thus reaffirming their unconditional support for the Angolan people in their just struggle against the racist South African regime.

In conclusion, the meeting hailed the celebration of the 22d independence anniversary of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Luanda Praises MPLA Role in Liberation Struggle

AB091945 Luanda Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Angolan people, from Cabinda to Cunene, and the militants of the party in particular, will celebrate tomorrow, 10 December 1983, the 27th anniversary of the founding of the

MPLA and the sixth anniversary of its transformation into a labor party. In the life of all peoples there are those who are considered good citizens for giving a new impetus to their history. It is within this context that the two events celebrated on 10 December every year in Angola are of great importance in the course of the struggle against colonialism and total liberation, for they represent the starting point of the two stages with specific characteristics (?worthy of mention).

The founding on the MPLA on 10 December 1956, which marked the awakening of the Angolan people as a whole, came at a time of utmost necessity to unite the genuine nationalist forces for the struggle against Portuguese colonialism. This was an indispensable condition that led to 14 years of an heroic and persistent fight to victory. Having accomplished this noble task, which led to the proclamation of independence on 11 November 1975, the Angolan people entered into a new stage in history — that of national reconstruction. In this context, it became necessary to advance as quickly as possible in the creation of basic sociopolitical and technical-material conditions for the construction of a society, which is not only devoid of any forms of domination and exploitation but also founded on the principles clearly defined by Marxism-Leninism. Thus, the establishment of the MPLA-Labor Party on 10 December 1977 came to fill the need to provide the working masses, the farmers, workers, and revolutionary intellectuals with a vanguard party capable of directing the economic development toward satisfying the needs of the popular masses. To this end, the MPLA-Labor Party asserted itself as a revolutionary and ideological instrument that guarantees the working class the power and guides state and society in their march toward socialism.

Although the present process of national reconstruction is confronted with difficult conditions due to the undeclared war imposed on us by racist South Africa, a war that has cost the People's Republic of Angola a large part of its human and material potential, the party continues positively to assume its governing role in the search for solutions to minimize social, political, and economic problems that affect several sectors of the country's life. By further strengthening the ideological unity of its militants and leaders, the party has always been and will always be the unifying force for all the Angolan people, the torchbearer of the struggle and the guarantor of more important victories. Thanks to the just principles it defends and the clear-sightedness of its leadership the party continues to register new members out of the working masses, the youth, the Armed Forces, and the intelligentsia, thus injecting into it new blood which is indispensable for the continuation of the noble work bequeathed to it by the late President Antonio Agostinho Neto, founder of the MPLA-Labor Party and immortal leader of the Angolan revolution.

It is thus that the launching of the campaign to enlist new party members was one of the fundamental tasks for its qualitative and quantitative expansion leading to the acquisition of new forces and of more dynamism in the struggle for national reconstruction and the edification of material and spiritual bases for socialism. It is within this framework that is reflected the great importance of the recent creation of regional military councils and the reactivation [words indistinct] which will throughout the country and side by side with the tireless Angolan Armed Forces make all efforts to fight the racist forces and their puppet bandits until their total elimination.

Once again, on the occasion of the anniversary of the MPLA-Labor Party, the Angolan people are even more determined to continue their struggle against imperialism, which is uncompromising in its maneuvers aimed at destablizing Angola and which continues to ignore the lessons inflicted on it by history. Faced with these imperialist maneuvers, the Angolan people will preserve and defend at all costs the party because it is only with the MPLA-Labor Party that they will be able to build a nation of workers and will continue their victorious march in solidarity with all forces fighting exploitation, oppression, and ignorance.

UNITA Radio Hits Luanda Rejection of Nigeria Plan

MB091140 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola 0430 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Commentary from the "Youth Program"]

[Excerpts] Young men of Angola and comrades: The chieftains of the MPLA are goind down a blind alley. The world is awakening and exerting pressure on the minority government of Luanda to give up the Cuban mercenaries and all the bandit scum who have found in Angola opportunities to kill and to become rich.

These people without a fatherland, notably Lucio Lara, Santos, Iko Carreira, Franca Ndalo, Bento Ribeiro, and others have never known and have never experienced the suffering of our people, and that is why they are not bothered in the least by the deaths of thousands of Angolans, killed by the murderous bullets of their bosses who, under the cover of using internationalists, have the liberty to do so.

These chieftains are not ready to free themselves from the vandals of Siberia and the Havana isle. This is proven by the recent rejection of a proposal put forth by Nigeria, which asked the minority, illegitimate government of Luanda to withdraw the Cuban rabble from Angola. The MPLA is afraid because it knows that it can only survive with its bosses, and with them it intends to perpetuate the uncurbed exploitation of our riches and silence the patriots within the MPLA who might try to rise up against the Moscow lackeys. Young men of Angola, to cooperate with this grouping of bandits is to betray the fatherland of (Ekwikwi), (Jinga), (Mwachiaba), (Mandume), and others.

Young men of Angola, Angolan people, there is no security at all in the war zones — whether traveling by road, rail, or aircraft. It is not true when the MPLA explains that its aircraft are continuously crashing for technical reasons. The chieftains of the MPLA are truly engineers of lies. The Angolan people cannot agree that the aircraft of the clowns of the Luanda minority government are all rotten and nothing but old iron and remnants from World War II. The truth is that they have been shot down by ground-to-air missiles which UNITA has deployed in appropriate areas. The chieftains try to deceive our people and the world by citing so-called technical failures to divert their attention.

The Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FALA] are ready to confront the enemy. The young men integrated into FALA are determined to win or die until the total liberation of the fatherland so that the Angolan people can live in happiness forever.

LESOTHO

SAPA Cites Prime Minister on Dam Opening

MB100853 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0943 GMT 10 Dec 83

[Text] Maseru, Dec 10, SAPA — The prime minister of Lesotho, Chief Leabua Jonathan, opened a large dam on the outskirts of Maseru today, as part of a project to secure Lesotho's economic independence from South Africa.

The dam — built at a cost of over R10 million — was cofinanced by the African Development Bank and the Government of Lesotho, and pumps nine thousand cubic metres of water per day from the Caledon River on the border between Lesotho and South Africa. Its construction would stimulate local industry and enable Lesotho to combat the drought, Chief Jonathan said.

The dam had evoked "jealousy" from South Africa, he added, referring to South African claims that Lesotho had pumped the Caledon River dry to store the rivers water in the Maqalika Dam. The Maqalika Dam had also been established as part of Lesotho's efforts to reduce her dependence on South Africa, Chief Jonathan said.

PAC Members Flown to Mozambique for Resettlement

MB121509 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 1400 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Nine members of the Pan-Africanist Congress [PAC], an organization banned in South Africa, have been flown out of Lesotho to Mozambique for resettlement in other countries. The UN High Commission for Refugees in Maseru assisted in the operation, and the men left Lesotho voluntarily. According to reports from Maseru, the names of the men were among those on a list of 68 South African refugees whom South Africa insisted be removed from Lesotho. South Africa informed Lesotho that the 68 were a threat to South Africa's security. A large number of the banned ANC left Lesotho voluntarily following an attack on ANC hideouts in Maseru last December.

SOUTH AFRICA

Malan Warns Neighbors Against 'Forces of Evil'

MB130730 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1505 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 12, SAPA — The minister of defence, General Magnus Malan, has appealed to neighbouring states to help oppose the "forces of evil who are trying to incite hatred among the nations of southern Africa" — warning that South Africa will use everything at its disposal to fight this "impiety."

At the same time, he has warned the country's neighbours not to allow themselves to become "instruments" of these "forces of evil," stating that they would be instigating and provoking violence if they did this.

In a Christmas message published in the latest edition of the SA Defence Force's official organ, *PARATUS*, the minister said:

"South Africa wants to live in peace with all its neighbours in accordance with the Christmas message.

"It wants to help build a golden future for the entire southern Africa, which will benefit all the inhabitants of the region.

"Therefore, it says to its neighbours: Let us stand together against the forces of evil which are trying to incite hatred between the nations of southern Africa and take away from us those things that are dear to us.

"Do not become instruments of these forces, because then you are instigating and provoking violence.

"The world is today sure of one fact and that is that the Republic of South Africa will fight this impiety with faith and with everything at its disposal."

In a separate message, the chief of the SADF, General Constand Viljoen, said the SADF had been physically, mentally and militarily honed to a fine edge of competence and had gained recognition as the "most powerful and efficient force on the continent."

The Defence Force could look back with pride on a year of successful operations, he added.

"We have fulfilled our role with honour in the preservation of the sovereignty and integrity of South Africa and South-West Africa," General Viljoen said.

"In concert with our colleagues in the South African police, the Defence Force has severely curtailed sabotage, subversion and acts of terrorism and helped maintain a state of internal stability within which our political and economic strategies have evolved.

"Many enemy nests in adjoining territories have been destroyed and their logistics, training and operational programmes disrupted," he added.

Despite the unrelenting psychological war waged against the country, the morale of the Defence Force had been sustained at the highest level, he stated.

Regrettably, however, there was a price to pay for this success and some of the country's soldiers had paid the supreme sacrifice, he said.

"I pay homage to them and assure their loved ones that the ideals for which they fought and died will be preserved come what may."

Bomb Blast Hits Johannesburg Government Offices
MB121926 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1900 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] A bomb blast has hit the offices of the Department of Community Development in central Johannesburg. Nigel Wrench was at the scene of the blast this evening:

[Wrench] Police liaison officer Fred Bull told journalists at the scene of the explosion that it was caused by a limpet mine planted in the Community Development Department in an office building in busy Bree Street. He said no one was injured in the blast. The windows were blown out by the force of the explosion, scattering glass over the street below, and the window frames were badly buckled. Bull said it was not possible to estimate the damage as yet. Uniformed police sealed off the building, and investigations were said to be continuing. It is the second bomb attack in Johannesburg in less than a week. Last Wednesday ANC saboteurs hit the offices of the Department of Cooperation and Development. The latest explosion comes just days after police said they had thwarted an ANC bombing campaign planned to mark the anniversary of the founding of the ANC's military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, this Friday.

Commentary Notes Weakening of ANC Position
MB121744 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Station commentary: "The ANC"]

[Text] The emergence of a new pattern in the terrorist activity of the ANC coincides, as a report from Swaziland today illustrates, with a weakening of the organization's position in neighboring countries. Whether the two are related remains to be seen.

According to the Mbabane report, villagers in northern Swaziland have captured an ANC member in possession of arms and explosives and handed him over to the security authorities. It comes after the weekend disclosure of the detention of 10 ANC members in South Africa since the assassination attempt against the prime minister in October. Attempts to assassinate public figures form part of the new trend, as described by the commissioner of police, General Coetzee. It is a facet of the policy announced by the ANC in July that all targets, including soft civilian targets, would henceforth be fair game for terrorist attacks. By then the policy was well established. Two months earlier, a bomb placed in Pretoria's main street had killed at random 19 people and injured more than 200.

In fact, in the past 8 years 47 people — the majority black — have died in incidents of urban terrorism. South Africa's response, apart from diligent police work in tracking down the criminals, has been to place the greatest possible distance between itself and the ANC's operational bases. Neighboring countries are no longer in any doubt that ANC bases in their territory — even in their capital cities — are subject to retaliatory strikes at any time.

The result is that increasing numbers of ANC members have been facing charges carrying arms or explosives in the countries harboring them. Botswana and Swaziland, especially, have taken tough action. Lesotho, under protest, has also begun clamping down, and even Mozambique is reported to be moving ANC activists to Nampula in the far north. Under that kind of pressure, the ANC is simply having to take greater political risks in its revolutionary program.

Official Says Magopa Move 'Foregone Conclusion'
MB130902 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] The deputy minister of development and land affairs, Mr Ben Wilkins, says it's a foregone conclusion that the remaining members of the Bakwena tribe at Magopa will be moved to Pachsdraai at Zeerust. Mr Wilkins said in Pretoria that details of the move were now being discussed with the people at Magopa. He said the department was waiting for a final decision from the remaining members of the tribe on how they would like to be moved. Mr Wilkins said the international controversy that had surrounded the move of the Bakwena tribe had reflected the views of only those members of the tribe who had objected to the move. He said the majority of the tribe had moved out of their own free will. Mr Wilkins said the decision to move the Bakwena tribe had been taken with the cooperation of the Bophuthatswana government in terms of the consolidation agreement. He said the government had been looking for a way to accommodate these people in the most satisfactory way possible.

Missile Test Site Construction To Begin in 1984
MB130930 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] A spokesman for Armscor says that when the corporation begins constructing its missile testing site on the Cape west coast, it will adhere stringently to the conditions set by the Haig Commission. He told our Pretoria news office that activity in the vicinity of the De Hoop nature reserve would apparently only commence next year. He said that the missile testing range would probably only be fully operational in 5 years' time. De Hoop had been chosen as a site because the existing site at Saint Lucia had become unsuitable.

SWAZILAND

TIMES Reports Move Set for Transvaal Swazis
MB121155 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 12 Dec 83 pp 1,16

[By *TIMES* reporter]

[Text] Hundreds of Swazis living in the Eastern Transvaal are to lose their homes in a mass removal scheme. The families are being removed from productive land to be dumped in rocky scrubland in the so-called Swazi homeland of KaNgwane.

The areas they are being removed from have been declared "white areas" and the Swazis are giving way to South African whites, according to our source in KaNgwane. But the Swazi

chiefs in KaNgwane say these are in fact Swazi areas and believe that the action of the South African government is a massive fraud.

And the people living in these so-called white areas are planning to resist. And the Swazi Council of Chiefs have consulted their lawyers to see if there could be any legal remedy. Tomorrow a meeting is to be held in Mbhuleni, Badplass.

The meeting will be held in Chief Mkoishi's residence in Mbhuleni. Chief Mkolishi is the chairman of the Council of Chiefs. The secretary of the Council of Chiefs, Mr David Lukhele will also speak at the meeting. It will start at 8:30 am.

In Mbhuleni alone about 900 people are to be removed from Badplaas to the so-called "etabelweni" where it is impossible to earn a living. Hostels are now to be built in Badplaas for the working men and women. "Those who want to live with their families will have to board buses to and from work everyday," he said.

"So you see, the ones who will have no choice but to live in the hostels are those who are needed to work during the night," the secretary of the Council, Mr David Lukhele said.

"This will be strictly for the convenience of the whites living here," he said. Their new homes will be in Mhlazatshe in the Tjakastaad district. Chief Mkolishi claims that Badplaas is part of his chiefdom and that these people are being removed arbitrarily, as he was not consulted.

Chief Mkolishi said the only reason why Badplaas is being declared a white area is because there are hotels, restaurants and a mineral baths resort. "Any area which has any natural resources or any sign of life is taken away.

We are dumped in the grey areas," Chief Mkolishi says.

Another 800 people are to be removed in the KaNgema distirict in a town known as Wakkesroom. These are being removed to Logial. The largest group of people to be displaced are from Driefontein. There are 1,070 here.

A fourth group is to be removed from Amersfoort between Emerlo and Volksrust. There are some 2,000 Swazis living here. These enjoy freehold rights, and it could not be established if they will be paid any compensation.

They have been given until the end of January to move out, otherwise bulldozers will move in to demolish the houses.

Armed ANC Suspect Captured by Residents

MB121148 Mbabane THE SWAZI OBSERVER in English 12 Dec 83 pp 1,10

[By Donny Nxumalo and Fanyana Mabuza]

[Excerpt] A suspected member of the African National Congress who was on transit to South Africa has been handed over to police after he was found with one machinegun and three hand grenades by residents of Mhlangatane near Pigg's Peak at the weekend.

The man, who gave the residents the name of Khoza, was caught by the homestead residents, who tied him with a leather rope before handing him to soldiers at Emkhuzweni Barracks. He was subsequently taken to Pigg's Peak police.

This was confirmed by the Commissioner of Police, Mr Titus Msibi, yesterday.

ZAMBIA

Plans Under Way To Repatriate Angolan Refugees

MB130806 Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 7 Dec 83 p 7

[By *TIMES* reporter]

[Text] The government is making arrangements to repatriate hundreds of refugees who recently flocked into the country from Angola. Minister of Home Affairs Mr Frederick Chomba said in Lusaka yesterday the government was in contact with Angolan authorities to work out the mechanics of repatriating the refugees.

Recently Mr Chomba confirmed that the refugees were flocking into the country and settling the North-Western province following an escalation of clashes between Angolan government troops and rebel UNITA forces.

Asked whether some of the refugees included Angolan forces or UNITA rebels, Mr Chomba said:

"We have received them as civilians who were possible sym pathisers of the Government of Angola.

"Arrangements are under way to repatriate everyone who has come here from Angola recently because of the problems facing that country."

But a senior official in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Mr Misheck Mwila, who is acting commissioner for refugees, said in Solwezi at the weekend that three district governors were among the 327 refugees who had fled to Zambia.

TIMES: U.S. Soviet Phobia Hinders Namibia Effort

MB130802 Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 2 Dec 83 p 1

[Unattributed editorial]

[Text] The United States' rejection of Wednesday's strong criticism of its stand on the Namibian issue by the leaders of the Commonwealth only heightens fears that the U.S. administration will listen to nobody but South Africa. The American stance only shows that the U.S. actually supports South Africa's continued illegal occupation of Namibia.

It is clear too that it was the American rejection which encouraged South African Foreign Minister "Pik" Botha to stick to "his guns" when he addressed a press conference in Bonn yesterday. Hence Botha was confident enough to assert: "We will maintain this position (linkage) regardless or any international consequences."

Botha clearly spoke thus with an eye to the American veto. It is difficult to understand exactly what the U.S. is up to as regards Namibia. Its latest pronouncements defy logic.

The State Department spokesman is quoted as having said: "The threat posed by the Cuban military presence to the security of Southern Africa is a reality which cannot be ignored." This assertion would have been laughable had it not come from one of the world's most powerful and hitherto quite constructive nations.

Are we really to believe that the U.S. is more concerned about the security of this part of the world than the leaders of the countries in this region?

Presidents Kaunda, Julius Nyerere (Tanzania), and Quett Masire (Botswana) were present in New Delhi and they were signatories to the final document that condemned the U.S. insistence on linkage. Before they left for the summit they consulted in a one-day meeting with their colleagues, Samora Machel of Mozambique and Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola.

These are the leaders who are more directly involved with the situation in this part of the world. There is no way they can afford to be casual about the situation in Namibia. It affects them directly.

The Namibian issue is not as complicated as the U.S. and South Africa would have us believe. The linkage is totally illogical and does not enter the matter at all.

The Cubans are in Angola invited by sovereign Angola. What is at issue is the independence of Namibia, which is not Angola. So how does linkage come in?

We strongly believe that the U.S. has the answer to and can solve the Namibian impasse if only it could address itself to the issue at hand and not mix it with its phobia of the Soviet Union and its allies.

The people of Namibia want independence and it is a pity that of all nations it is the U.S. which is putting obstacles and supporting such sordid regimes as the Pretoria one — both George Washington and Abraham Lincoln must be turning in their graves, in disapproval.

It is time the U.S. conducted itself as a force for the common good and progress and not as a villain addressing itself to irrelevancies.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Warns Against Territorial Violations

MB122000 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, says Zimbabwe is no pushover, and any enemy violating its territorial integrity does so at its peril. Comrade Mugabe said while Zimbabwe does not harbor any territorial ambitions or aggressive intentions against its neighbors, it is more than prepared to defend its heritage.

He told the passing-out parade of the 32d Infantry Battalion of the national Army at the (Nyanga) battle school today that Zimbabwe is not a stranger to sacrifices and will certainly be a hard nut to crack. Comrade Mugabe said the training marked the transformation of guerrilla force into a regular conventional army.

The Zimbabwe national Army's 32d Battalion has completed 14 weeks of training under the Army's phase two training program. The program involves the training of infantry battalions to operate alongside tanks, armored cars, artillery units, as well as the use of supporting arms. The program is expected to involve the rest of the brigade.

Minister Urges More Material Support for SWAPO

MB130913 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Zimbabwe has called for more material support for SWAPO to enable it to intensify the struggle against the Pretoria racist regime illegally administrating Namibia. Speaking at the reception marking Kenya's 20th independence anniversary in Harare last night, the minister of information, posts, and telecommunications, Comrade Shamuyarira, expressed strong support for the just struggle being waged by the ANC and the PAC [Pan-Africanist Congress] in South Africa. Comrade Shamuyarira stressed that the Botha regime's acts of aggression against independent African states will not guarantee its inevitable withdrawal from Namibia and the introduction of democracy in that country.

Comrade Shamuyarira said Zimbabwe and Kenya should increase cooperation in the field of trade to make sociopolitical and cultural relations between the two countries more meaningful. The minister expressed his conviction that under the preferential trade area of eastern and southern Africa, Kenya and Zimbabwe can improve trade cooperation.

In reply, the Kenyan high commissioner, Mr Mzuki Mbaya, expressed his country's willingness to widen the present scope of

cooperation with Zimbabwe, especially in areas where the two countries are able to exchange experience and expertise.

Libyan Aid Delegation Arrives To Assess Drought

MB130800 Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] An eight-person Libyan delegation arrived in Harare yesterday on a week-long visit to assess the drought situation in Zimbabwe. The delegation, headed by Mr 'Ali (Bil'azi), representing the Call of Islam organization, which is a non-governmental organization, is expected to donate about $20,000 worth of medicines and about $10,000 worth of food relief. Dr (Bil'azi) said the friendship between the people of Zimbabwe and Libya goes back to the days of the liberation struggle and should be strengthened.

Government Continues Talks With Private Schools

MB120708 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] The deputy minister of education and culture, Senator Joseph Culverwell, says consultations are continuing between 27 private schools and the government to reach a compromise on the admission of black pupils. Senator Culverwell, speaking on the Zimbabwe television program "The Nation" said the ultimatum given to private schools to have 60 percent black pupils by January was not an open and shut case. He said discussions have been going on with these schools for the first 3 years and are continuing until agreement is reached.

On the role of the Senate, Senator Culverwell said he supports the view that the upper house should be phased out because of its irrelevance to a developing country like Zimbabwe and high costs of maintaining it. However, he said, the Senate had had its good days and had made a fair contribution in the enactment of legislation.